BLACK PANTHER

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

TA-NEHISI COATES

"Black Panther *goes in a bold direction.*"
– Black Nerd Problems

KIRK
SPROUSE
MARTIN

AVENGERS OF THE NEW WORLD PART TWO

MARVEL

BLACK
PANTHER

BLACK PANTHER

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#166-167

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Karl Story & Matt Milla (#172)

Just as Wakanda is transitioning into a constitutional monarchy, something from its ancient past now threatens to upend everything.

The gods of Wakanda — the Orisha — have gone missing. And in their absence, mystical portals have been releasing deadly creatures. Claiming the Orisha are dead, a Wakandan named Ras the Exhorter is leading the people to worship a new god called Sefako. T'Challa and Shuri hunted down a group of the creatures only to discover that the portal was no portal at all, but rather a device that created holograms of the creatures — using sound instead of light.

Meanwhile, Midnight Angels Aneka and Ayo tracked Asira, an old friend of T'Challa's who was kidnapped by the Fenris twins, to the nearby hostile country of Azania. They walked straight into a trap.

Now the Angels are in the hands of Klaw, Wakanda's bitterest foe. And he's not alone: Ezekiel Stane, Doctor Faustus, Zenzi and Ras the Exhorter stand at the madman's side...

AVENGERS OF THE NEW WORLD PART TWO

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ANTWERP LUNATIC ASYLUM, THEN

JULIA.

NOT A DAY PASSES WITHOUT ME THINKING OF WHAT THEY DID TO YOU.

NOT A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT ME SEEING YOU IN THAT GARDEN.

WITH THE VOICES CUT OUT OF YOUR HEAD.

THE ALASKA RANGE, SECRET A.I.M. FACILITY, NOW

THOSE MONSTERS WHO PUT YOU IN A CAGE, JULIA, THEY *FEARED* YOU.

THEY FEARED THE *VOICES*.

PERHAPS THEY SHOULD HAVE.

REVERBIUM VAULT

YOU TOLD THEM THAT THE VOICES WERE WARNINGS OF THE UNSEEN.

THE REPROACH OF THE GODS.

I KNOW NOW THAT YOU WERE RIGHT, SISTER.

THE VOICES ARE REAL. THOUGH ONLY A FEW ARE READY TO HEAR THEM.

FOR WEEKS NOW, I HAVE BEEN THAT PARTICULAR VOICE.

I HAVE SPOKEN IN A FREQUENCY THAT ONLY THE CHOSEN COULD HEAR.

MY SUGGESTION, MY *VOICE*, HAS NOW BLOOMED IN THEIR HEADS.

TELLING THEM WHAT THEY MUST DO, WHAT THEY MUST GIVE...

AND NOW I HAVE GIVEN THEM WHAT WAS PROMISED.

AND SENT THEM TO THEIR REWARD.

IT IS THE SOUND OF A MIRACLE.

THE VOICE OF A GOD.

THE REPROACH OF KLAW.

THE CITY OF YSTER PAL, CENTRAL AZANIA, ENEMY NATION OF WAKANDA

IT IS THE *REVERBIUM* THAT ALLOWS FOR THIS.

ITS PROPERTIES BOOST MY SONIC POWERS...

...PUSHING ME TO THE PRECIPICE OF *DIVINITY.*

BEHOLD MY SERVANTS IN THIS ENDEAVOR...

ZEKE STANE AND *SASHA HAMMER*--BOTH USEFUL IN MIND, BUT SMALL IN VISION.

FAUSTUS, A TRICKSTER WHOSE OWN VOICE ENSLAVES THE MIND.

AND *ZENZI THE REVEALER*, WHO CLAIMS TO BE A LIBERATOR OF HEARTS. BUT I HAVE PEERED INTO HER HEART, AND FOUND NOTHING.

I WOULD FEAR HER, IF THAT WERE STILL POSSIBLE.

BUT I GAVE UP ALL THAT LONG AGO, JULIA.

GAVE UP MY VERY BODY.

AND BECAME THE VOICE THAT WHISPERS IN THE NIGHT, TELLING MEN WHAT THEY MUST DO.*

*FOR MORE ON KLAW'S ORIGIN, CHECK OUT FANTASTIC FOUR #53 ON MARVEL UNLIMITED! --WIL

ONLY NOW HAVE I COME TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL REACH OF MY POWERS.

I WILL BE HONEST AND TELL YOU THAT I AM STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN IT ALL.

THERE IS NO MANUAL FOR THE ASPIRING GOD.

AND SO I MUST SETTLE FOR SCIENCE.

STANE'S INVENTION-- *THE HAND OF CALLIOPE*-- FOCUSES MY POWER. FOCUSES ME.

SO THAT I AM NOT DISPERSED AMONG AN OBLIVION OF INFINITE VOICES.

THE REVERBIUM HELPS, BUT IT IS STILL JUST A MAN-MADE REPLICATION OF THAT WHICH I TRULY NEED--

--THE VERY BLOOD OF WAKANDA ITSELF. *VIBRANIUM.*

THE VOICES HAVE TOLD ME THIS, JUST AS THEY ONCE TOLD YOU SUCH THINGS.

FATHER DID NOT UNDERSTAND.

HE WAS A MAN OF MEAN VISION AND ABUNDANT WRATH.

MOTHER WAS TOO TIMID TO OPPOSE HIM.

BUT NOT YOU.

I COULD NOT SAVE YOU FROM HIS SMALL MIND.

AND NOT A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT ME REMEMBERING MY WEAKNESS.

WITHOUT REMEMBERING THAT I *LET* THEM CUT THE VOICES OUT OF YOUR HEAD.

BUT I AM GOING TO MAKE IT *RIGHT*, I SWEAR TO YOU, JULIA.

NO MATTER THE PRICE.

SOUTHERN AZANIA, REBEL CAMP

THAT IS WHY I HAVE COME TO *AZANIA*--THE LAST COUNTRY WHERE THOSE *FIT BY NATURE REIGN.*

OF COURSE THE SERFDOM IS STUBBORN HERE, AS THEY ARE EVERYWHERE.

MY ANCIENT ENEMY, WAKANDA, IS SUBSIDIZING A REBELLION AMONG THEM.

I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE FELT SYMPATHY FOR THEM, JULIA.

YOU WERE ALWAYS SO CARING.

YOU WERE ALWAYS SO SOFT.

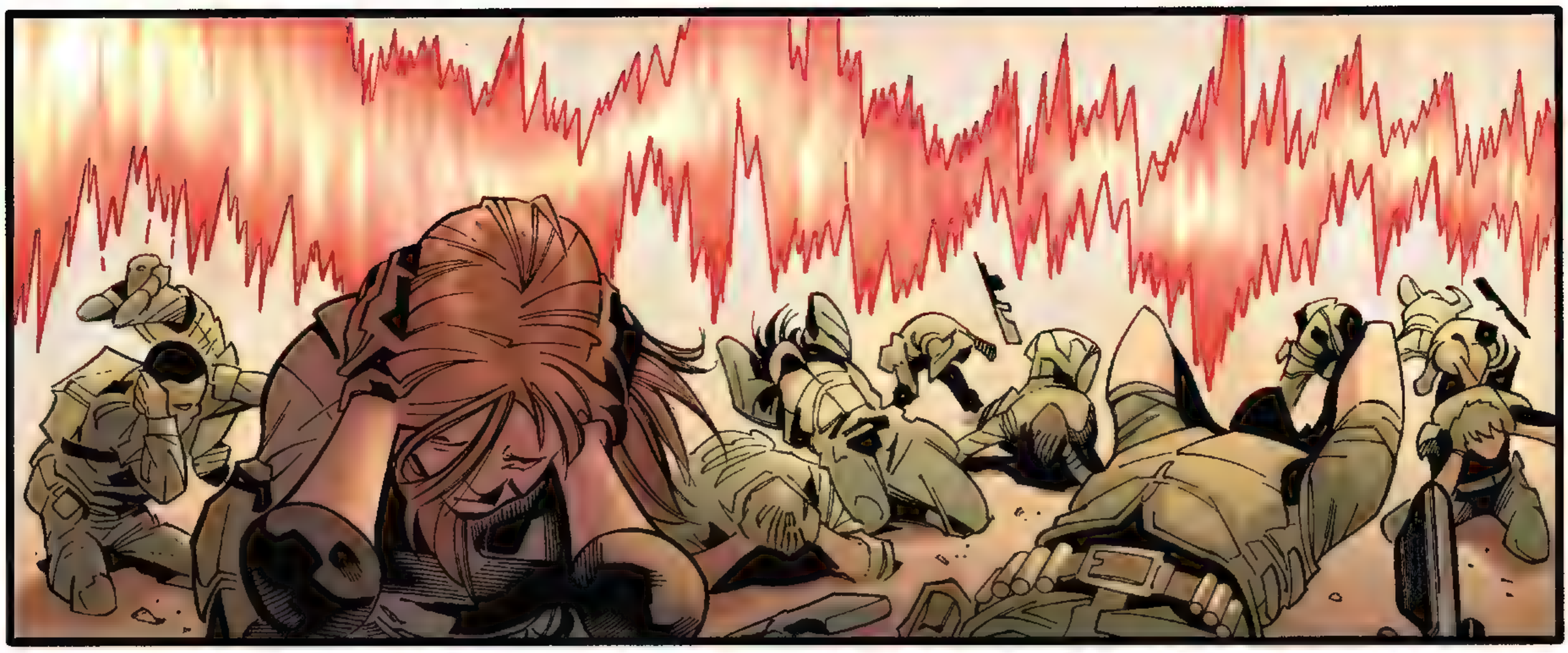
YOUR GENTLE NATURE FOUND NO QUARTER IN THIS WORLD.

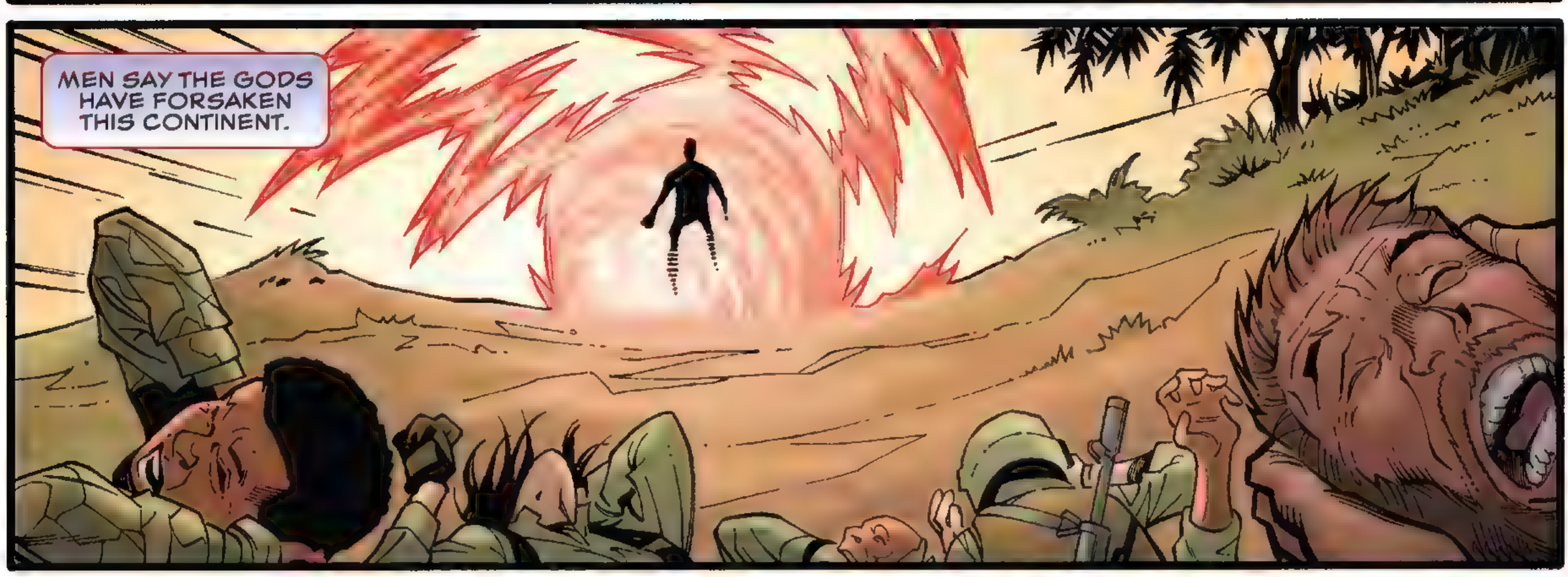
WHERE THE LORDS ARE OVERRUN.

WHERE PEONS MURDER THEIR MASTERS...

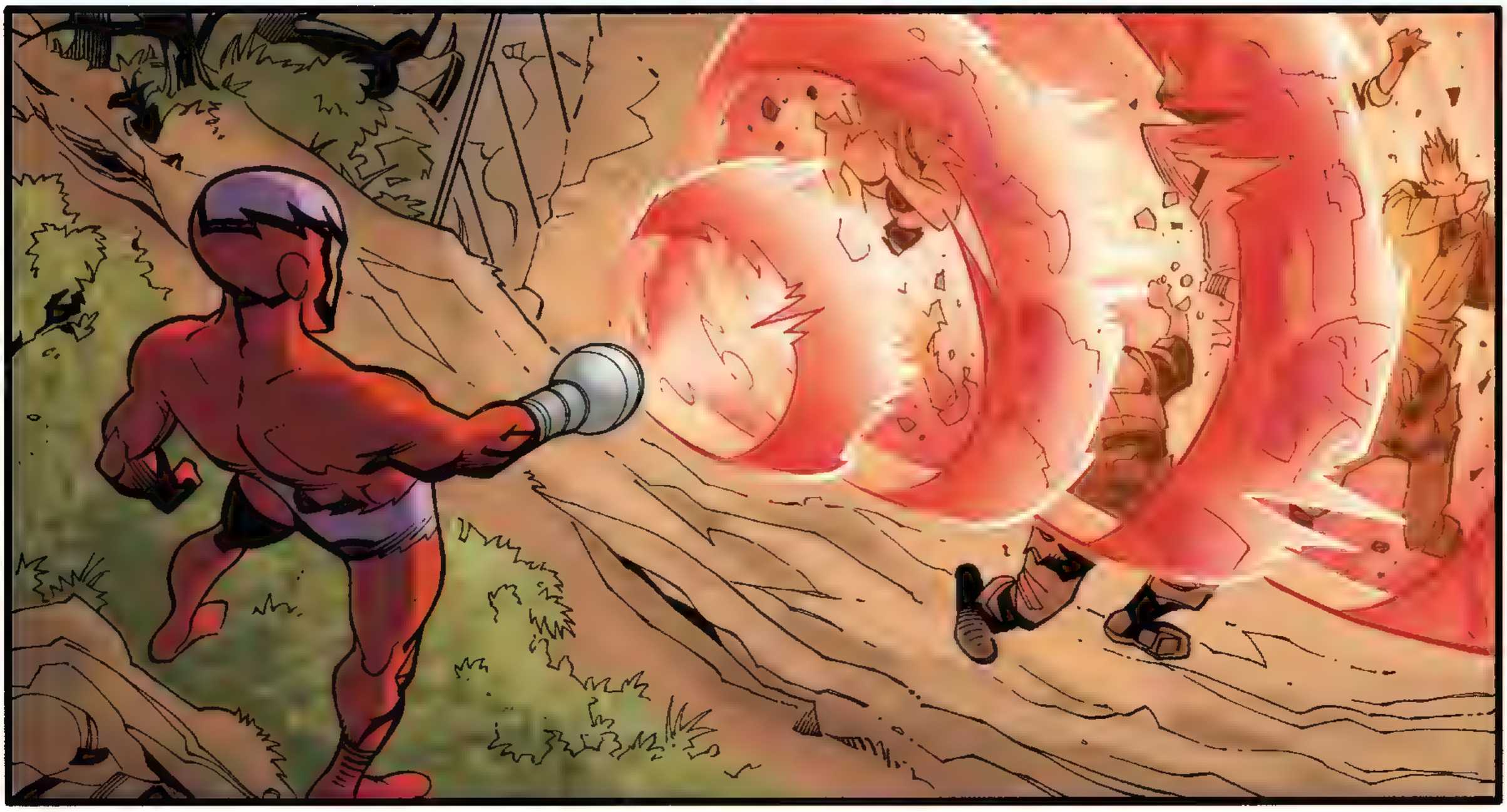
...AND DRINK IN THEIR BLOOD.

THERE MUST BE SOME VOICE FOR JUSTICE, JULIA.




MEN SAY THE GODS HAVE FORSAKEN THIS CONTINENT.

THEN LET NEW GODS ARISE.



AND LET THEIR VOICE BE A GREAT FEAR.

YOU WERE MUCH TOO SOFT FOR THIS WORLD, JULIA.

IT WAS NOT YOUR FAULT.

IT WAS JUST YOUR NATURE.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE IS NO CARING LEFT IN ME.

NO SOFTNESS.

NONE...

CLICK

...SAVE YOUR VOICE.

I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU.

THAT I BELIEVED IN THE VOICES WHEN OTHERS DID NOT.

AND THAT THE DAY THEY CARVED THE VOICES OUT OF YOUR HEAD...

ANTWER

TRANSORBITAL LOBOTOMY

...WAS THE DAY THEY CARVED THE GOD OUT OF THEIR OWN HEARTS.

I HAVE SEARCHED THE SOUNDSCAPES OF TIME, LISTENED TO THE HARMONY OF YEARS.

ALL TIME-SPACE IS BUT A SYMPHONY TO ME.

I WAS NOT SEARCHING FOR POWER, JULIA.

I WAS SEARCHING FOR *YOU.*

THE WAKANDA/ AZANIA BORDER

NOW I AM THE VOICE, ECHOING THROUGH THE HEATHEN HILLS OF KINAMASI.

NOW I PREPARE TO DRINK IN VIBRANIUM, THE BLOOD OF THIS WAKANDA.

TO ASCEND AND TAKE ON MY NEW NAME.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE DEGRADED ONES CALL ME, JULIA?

REPAIR

draw's CAFE

THEY CALL ME GOD.

THE CELLAR, CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR AUGMENTED FELONS

FWAASSSHHH

DR. FRANKLIN, I PRESUME.

SELF-PITY? THAT WILL NOT DO.

YOU MUST KNOW THIS, BECAUSE YOU MUST KNOW ME. AND IF NOT ME, THEN YOU MUST KNOW WHAT I REPRESENT.

THE PANTHER.

YES. THE PANTHER. THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT, WAS THERE NOT?*

*SEE BLACK PANTHER #16.
-WIL

SHUN INIQUITY. MAKE PENANCE. WAIT FOR THE PANTHER'S SIGN.

WHAT HAPPENED, DR. FRANKLIN?

I FELL BACK. I THOUGHT I WAS OUT OF THE HOLE, AND I FELL RIGHT BACK.

YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW EASY IT IS TO FALL BACK.

NO, DR. FRANKLIN, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT ALL.

ONCE, I AWOKE IN ILL DISPOSITION. SO I BURNED ATLANTIS AND MADE GARDENING OF THE ASHES.

I KNOW THE LURE OF GREAT POWER. BUT MORE, I KNOW THE PRICE OF DIVORCING POWER FROM DISCIPLINE.

YOU THINK THAT GARB, THAT NAME--*THUNDERBALL*-- MAKES YOU POWERFUL? MAKES YOU FREE?

LOOK AT YOU NOW.

POWER WITHOUT DISCIPLINE IS NOT POWER AT ALL.

IT IS SLAVERY.

AND THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE, DR. FRANKLIN-- A SLAVE.

YOU DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND THIS.

BUT YOU WILL.

CLACK-CLACK-CLACK-CLACK-CLACK

FOR NOW, THE PANTHER, IT SEEMS, HAS NEED OF YOU. WHICH MEANS WAKANDA HAS NEED OF YOU.

WHICH MEANS THE WORLD HAS NEED OF YOU.

TH-THANK YOU.

DO NOT THANK ME. THE GRATITUDE OF SLAVES IS NOXIOUS TO ME.

KNOW THAT THESE MEN HAVE REMANDED YOU TO OUR CUSTODY.

BUT MORE, KNOW THAT WE ARE LESS DELICATE THAN THEY.

FALL BACK AGAIN, AND WE WILL NOT MAKE YOU INTO A SLAVE...

"...WE WILL MAKE YOU INTO GARDENING."

TAIFA NGAO, BIRNIN ZANA

LIKE SEEMINGLY EVERY AMERICAN TRAGEDY, DR. FRANKLIN, THIS ONE BEGINS IN IMITATION.

THIS WOMAN, SAJANI JAFFREY, ATTEMPTED TO MANUFACTURE A FACSIMILE OF VIBRANIUM...*

SAJANI JAFFREY

*SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #648. -WIL

"...WITH PREDICTABLE RESULTS.

"THE LESSON WAS OBVIOUS BUT ILL-RECEIVED.

"MONTHS AGO, ANOTHER FACTION TRIED AGAIN, CREATING MORE OF THIS SO-CALLED *REVERBIUM.*

"I WOULD ADMIRE THIS PERSISTENCE, WERE IT NOT SO DESTRUCTIVE."

BUT IF THE ENDS OF THIS SECOND ATTEMPT WERE THE SAME...

...THE MEANS WERE DIFFERENT.

KLAW!

YES, KLAW. MY OLD ENEMY. AND YOUR OLD COMRADE.

HIS ROLE IN THIS LAST DISASTER IS ALARMING ENOUGH.

BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT HE IS CONSPIRING WITH OUR WICKED NEIGHBOR-- AZANIA.

YEAH. THE FENRIS TWINS WERE WORKING WITH THEM, TOO. THIS STILL ABOUT THE GIRL?

ASIRA. YES, I BELIEVE IT IS. AND MUCH MORE.

"THE PROBLEM, YET AGAIN, IS IMITATION.

"WAKANDA IS, RIGHT NOW, IN THE MIDST OF A VERY REAL TRANSDIMENSIONAL CRISIS."

"AND LET ME GUESS: KLAW WANTS A PIECE OF THE ACTION."

I'VE SEEN HIM CREATE BASIC CONSTRUCTS LIKE THESE...

THE NEW ONES ARE MORE SOPHISTICATED.

AND MODELED AFTER THE VERY CREATURES WHO HAVE BROUGHT ON OUR CRISIS.

AND SO THE QUESTION IS, "*WHY?*"

YOU SUSPECT A LINK BETWEEN KLAW, THIS "*CRISIS*" AND THE REVERBIUM, DON'T YOU?

I DO.

CERTAIN SUBSONIC ENERGY SIGNATURES WERE DETECTED AT THAT REVERBIUM LAB AND THEN HERE IN WAKANDA.

GOT IT. YOU NEED A DECENT PHYSICIST TO EXAMINE THE SIGNATURES.

CANAAN

AZANIA

XIGANDA

BUT...YOU'RE ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT PHYSICISTS IN THE WORLD. WHY WOULD YOU NEED *ME?*

I MENTIONED TWO PHENOMENA.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE QUALIFIES YOU TO ANALYZE THE FIRST. BUT MY OFFICE DEMANDS I ATTEND TO THE SECOND.

SCIENCE IS WHAT I LOVE, DR. FRANKLIN-- BUT A KING IS WHAT I *AM.*

"AND DO YOU KNOW THE FIRST RULE FOR ANY KING?"

UH...NO.

"DELEGATE, DR. FRANKLIN.

"DELEGATE."

THE DJALIA

I DO NOT TRUST HIM, T'CHALLA.

NOR DO I. BUT TRUST IS NOT THE BASIS OF OUR BARGAIN.

NOT EVERYONE WAS RAISED WITH ROYAL EXPECTATIONS AND GRAND POSSIBILITY.

AND TO THOSE UNFORTUNATES, WE OFFER A GLIMMER OF SOME UNSHACKLED WORLD, A PATH UNTRAMMELED.

WE ARE WHAT THEY COULD HAVE BEEN, SHURI. WHAT THEY STILL MIGHT BE. AND THAT TOO IS TEMPTATION.

NO, I DO NOT TRUST ELIOT FRANKLIN. HE IS SELF-INTERESTED TO A FAULT.

AND THAT IS WHAT I AM COUNTING ON.

NOW, TELL ME MORE OF THIS *DJALIA*.

WHERE WOULD I BEGIN? IT IS MEMORY INCARNATE, T'CHALLA.

THE HISTORIES BEFORE THERE WAS HISTORY.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO BE KNOWN OF THESE ORIGINATORS BEYOND THE LEGENDS, IT WILL BE HERE.

BUT WHY EXPLAIN...

...WHEN YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF?

DAUGHTER

AND WHO IS THIS--ANOTHER OF MY CHILDREN?

NO. NOT A CHILD AT ALL.

A SCIENTIST.

A HERO.

HE IS A KING, MOTHER.

NO. NOT HERE.

HERE I AM BUT A SEEKER.

AND WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SEEK, HERO?

OH, MOTHER, STOP TOYING WITH HIM. YOU WELL KNOW WHY WE ARE HERE.

SO YOUNG SO HARRIED.

BUT IF THE AJA-ADANNA ORDERS IT, LET IT BE.

AND SO WE RECOUNT, THEN, AS THE RAINS RECOUNT THE CLOUDS THAT BIRTH THEM.

WE RECOUNT, AS THE SEA RECOUNTS THE MOON THAT DRAWS IT TO TIDE.

WHAT I SPEAK OF NOW IS THE BEGINNING. WAKANDA BEFORE ITS NAME.

"WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH OF THE OR GINATORS WAS FIRST OR WHEN PRECISELY THEY CAME.

"BUT WE KNOW THAT THEY CAME BEFORE US.

"THAT THEY LIVED N PEACE BEFORE US.

"THAT THEY *THRIVED* BEFORE US.

"AND WE KNOW THAT WE FIRST CAME AS PILGRIMS, CALLED BY SOMETHING MYSTICAL IN THE VERY SOIL.

"AND I SUPPOSE THAT THESE FIRST PILGRIMS ARRIVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS IN THEIR HEADS, AND INNOCENCE IN THEIR HEARTS.

"BUT THEY WERE, AS MAN TENDS TO BE, OBSESSED WITH TITLE AND LACKING IN GRACE.

"THEY OFFENDED THE ORIGINATORS. AND SO THERE WAS WAR.

"THE PILGRIMS WERE ROUTED AT FIRST.

"THEN HEROES ROSE AMONG THEM.

"AND ON FAITH, HEROES ASCENDED TO GODS.

"NANOU, THE EVER-BURNING.

"MUJAJI, THE LIFE-GIVER

"AND MOST FEARSOME...

...BEAST.

"THE ORIGINATORS WERE DEFEATED...

"...BANISHED TO THE NETHER-REALMS, BEYOND THE GATES OF THIS NEW WORLD.

"THE ORISHA, AND THEIR FOLLOWERS, STOOD AS SENTINELS AT THESE GATES

"AND UPON THE LAND OF THE ORIGINATORS, UPON THE LAND SEIZED BY THE PILGRIMS AND THEIR YOUNG GODS

"...WE BUILT THE MOST ADVANCED SOCIETY EVER KNOWN TO MAN."

HOW... HOW COULD THIS BE?

OH, MY DEAR SEEKER

DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT A GREAT NATION COULD BE BUILT WITHOUT ANOTHER UNDERFOOT?

OR DID YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR YOUNG GODS WERE SOMEHOW MORE SOUND THAN ALL OTHERS?

I'VE STUDIED WAKANDAN HISTORY SINCE I WAS BOY.

YES, THERE ARE MYTHS. LEGENDS OF THE ANANSI AND THE SIMBI. BUT NOTHING LIKE *THIS.*

EVERY MAN IS THE HERO OF H S OWN STORY, THE CHAMP ON OF H S CHOSEN MYTH.

BUT YOU ARE A KING. AND WHILE THE PEOPLE CAN AFFORD TO LIVE IN MYTH, YOU CANNOT.

YOU HAVE HEARD THIS BEFORE, YES?

THE ORISHA NO LONGER GUARD THE GATES. SOME OTHER AMUSEMENT, OR SOME OTHER TRAGEDY, HAS CLAIMED THEM.

AND YOU ARE A KING, I SAY. AND SO THE FATE OF WAKANDA IS YOURS, HERO.

YOUR BURDEN IS TO ACT, MY KING, KNOWING THAT TO BE HUMAN IS TO BE IGNOBLE AND FALLEN

AND STILL YOU MUST ACT.

"THE PAST CANNOT BE UNDONE. THERE WILL BE NO REPARATION FOR THE ORIGINATORS.

"THE WAR IS RENEWED.

"THE GATES MUST BE RESTORED."

WE DO NOT COME TO YOU PLEADING IGNORANCE.

OUR ANGELS--AYO AND ANEKA--KNEW WELL THE RISKS OF THEIR TRADE.

THE JABARI-LANDS

BUT WE DO PLEAD *LOYALTY.* FOR IT WAS LOYALTY THAT RETURNED OUR ANGELS TO THE SERVICE OF THE KING.

IT WAS LOYALTY TO YOUNG *ASIRA DAVIN* THAT SENT OUR ANGELS INTO THE DEMON MAW OF AZANIA.

AND IT IS *LOYALTY,* QUEEN-MOTHER RAMONDA, THAT MUST NOW COMPEL WAKANDA TO SAVE AYO AND ANEKA...

I AM SORRY, QUEEN-MOTHER...I... I...

"...AS THEY ONCE SAVED ME."

BIRNIN ZANA

M'BALI, I AM NOT HEEDLESS OF YOUR WORDS.

AYO I HAVE KNOWN SINCE SHE WAS A GIRL.

"...KNOW THAT IT WAS DUTY, NOT MALICE, THAT COMPELLED ME."

AND IF MY RELATIONS WITH ANEKA WERE... *DIFFICULT...*

AND IT IS DUTY THAT COMPELS ME STILL. DUTY IS WHAT I AM, YOU UNDERSTAND?

WE ARE BESIEGED. FALSE PROPHETS ARISE AND TAKE UP ALLIANCE WITH DESPOTIC POWERS.

AND THE MURDERER OF MY HUSBAND, KING T'CHAKA, HAS RETURNED.

YES. AND IT IS HE WHO WE ARE TOLD NOW HOLDS OUR AYO AND ANEKA.

IF THEY ARE BEING HELD AT ALL.

UNDERSTAND ME: WOULD I THE POWER, I WOULD SEND THE WHOLE MIGHT OF WAKANDA TO REDUCE AZANIA AND KLAW TO DUST.

BUT I HAVE NO SUCH POWER. NOR DOES THE KING.

IT WAS RELINQUISHED IN THIS NEW ERA TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL.

"NO ONE MAN." YOU DO REMEMBER, DO YOU NOT?

THIS IS YOUR *"DEMOCRACY."* THE GOVERNMENT THAT YOU AND THE *DORA MILAJE* WERE WILLING TO SHATTER A NATION FOR.

AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE IT, WE MUST--ALL OF US--ABIDE BY IT.

NO. WE DID NOT FIGHT FOR A COUNTRY THAT ABANDONS THOSE MOST WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR IT.

IF YOU HAVE NO PLANS TO SAVE AYO AND ANEKA, WE WILL MAKE OUR OWN.

FORGIVE MY AMERICANISM, BUT "YOU AND WHAT ARMY?"

DO NOT OVERTHINK YOUR POWER. THE AZANIANS WOULD DESTROY THE DORAS.

THEN IT WILL BE DEATH IN SERVICE OF LOYALTY.

IT WILL BE NO SUCH THING.

WE CEDED OUR POWER TO MAKE WAR ABROAD AT THE KING'S DISCRETION. BUT WE NEVER CEDED THE RIGHT TO *ENFORCE* THE LAW.

DO NOT FORCE THIS, M'BALI. IT WILL NOT END WELL. I AM IN SYMPATHY WITH YOUR PAIN.

BUT DO NOT THINK I WILL HESITATE ONE SECOND TO DO MY DUTY AGAIN.

ACTIVATE SECURE KIMOYO MESSAGING CHANNEL.

The Doras?

Flustered. Anxious. We need to move.

Is it ready?

75 percent. Need more time.

None left. Must move.

Understood.

Take the third step.

And the Gates? Anything to report?

Yes.

All bad.

SO, DR. FRANKLIN, WHAT DO WE HAVE?

THE SUBSONIC SIGNATURE FOUND AT A.I.M.'S REVERBIUM LAB CARRIED A SERIES OF HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS.

ALL OF THEM MEANT TO BEND THE TECHNICIANS TO KLAW'S WILL.

SO THE ATTACK WAS, IN THE MOST LITERAL SENSE, AN INSIDE JOB.

YES. KLAW HAD THEM HEARING VOICES 24/7. AND ALL OF THEM WERE HIS.

ONCE HE HAD THE REVERBIUM, HE USED IT TO AUGMENT THE POWER OF HIS SOUND-CRAFT.

KLAW'S SIGNATURE CAN BE FOUND ON SOME OF THE GATES YOU'VE SEEN...

...BUT NOT ALL OF THEM.

IF I HAD TO PUT MYSELF IN HIS PLACE-- WHICH, I ADMIT, IS PRETTY EASY--

--I'D SAY HE'S TRYING TO CAPITALIZE AND HIT YOU WHEN YOU'RE WEAK.

T'CHALLA, IS THERE A PLAN?

A SECOND FRONT, SHURI-- TO BE OPENED IN THE WESTERN BORDERLANDS.

AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST KLAW IN AZANIA, WHILE WE DEFEND HERE IN WAKANDA?

YES. THE ORIGINATORS ARE NO REAL THREAT. THEIR WEAPONRY IS PRIMITIVE.

BUT THE TRUE GATES GROW IN NUMBER. WE HAVE NO MEANS OF CLOSING THEM. SHEER QUANTITY MIGHT OVERCOME QUALITY.

"BUT SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEM IS HAPPENING IN WAKANDA.

"LAKE NYANZA WAS ONCE DESERT.

"MERE HOURS AGO, IT BEGAN REVERTING TO THAT STATE."

THE PAST, IT SEEMS, NO LONGER SIMPLY HARASSES US, BUT NOW SEEKS TO *COLONIZE OUR COUNTRY.*

ZAWAVARI, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE WILL FIND HERE. IN YOUR RECENT STATE...

I AM *FINE.* THE NYANZA IS HOME TO MORE THAN ONE GATE.

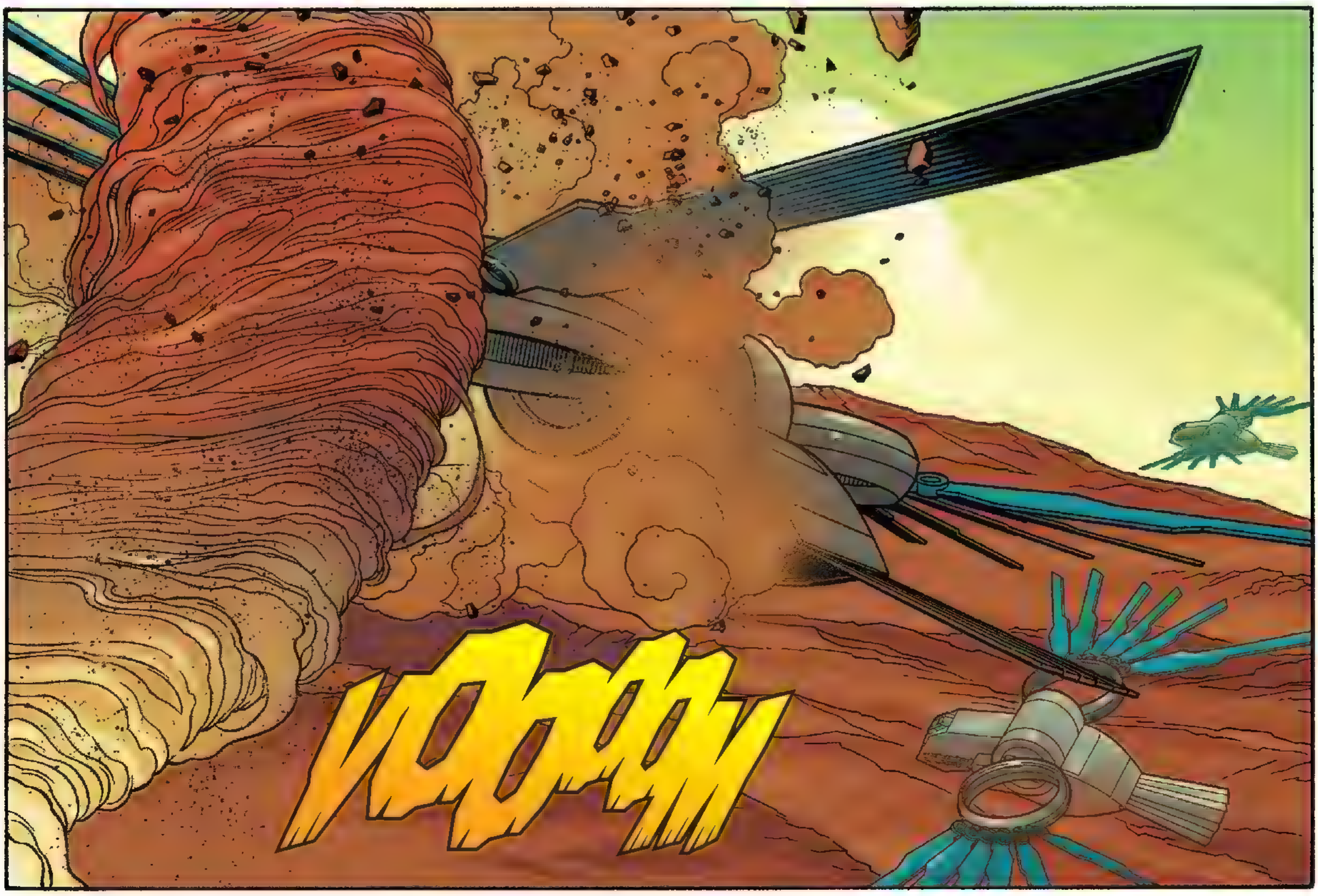
THESE CREATURES WILL PAY FOR THREATENING MINE.

FINE. EDEN, WILL YOU--

EDEN... WHAT IS IT?

I'M NOT SURE. I...

"...I THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OUT THERE..."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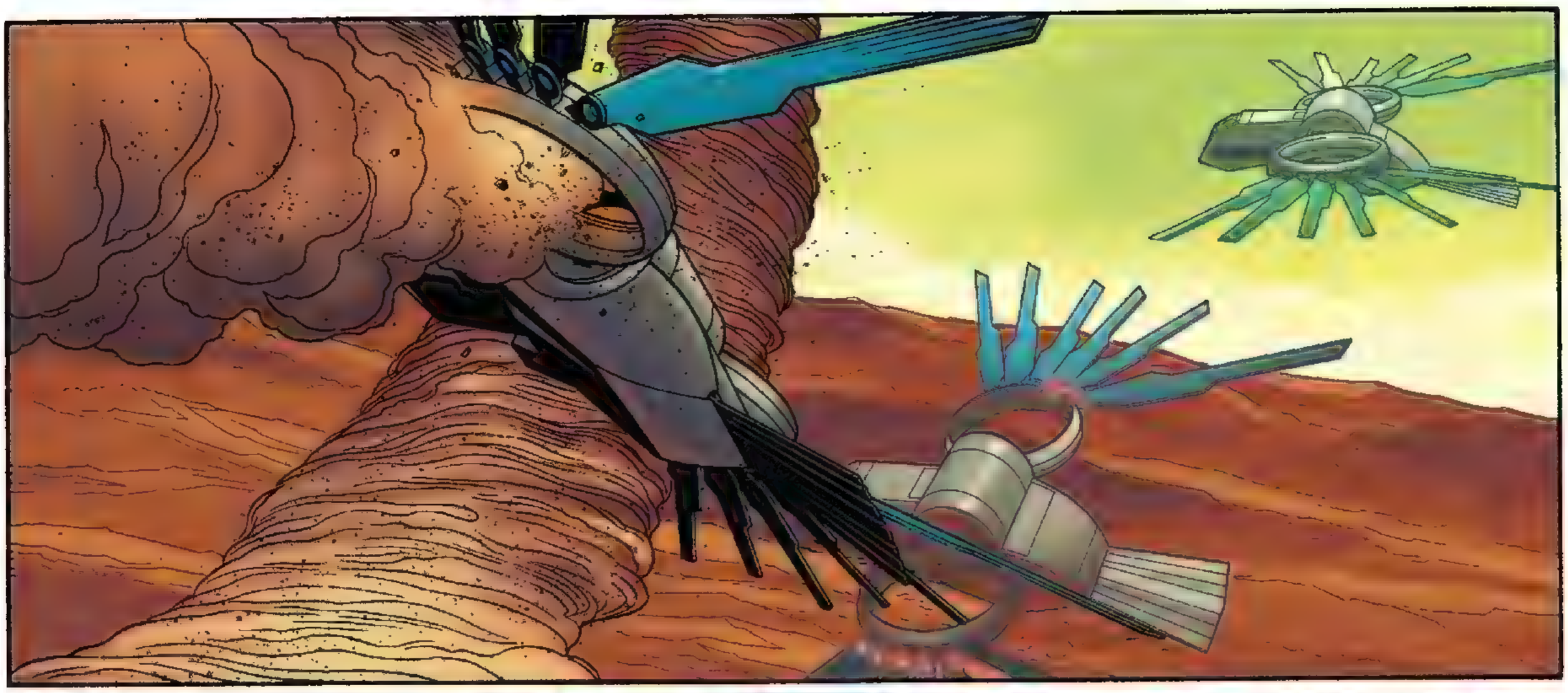


THE CREW... DR. FRANKLIN...

I...I GRABBED ALL I COULD.

FORGIVE MY CALLOUSNESS, MY FRIENDS...

...BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR GRIEF...

...NOW IS THE TIME FOR WAR.

EDEN--

--GET TO ANY SURVIVORS. BRING UP ANY STILL IN FIGHTING SHAPE.

SKREEE!

AKILI--

--MIND ZAWAVARI.

MIND YOURSELF, BOY.

I AM A SEER OF THE ELDER GODS...

"...AMMAH AND NOMMO ARE THE ONLY ESCORTS I NEED."

GRAAAACCKKK

NOT BAD, OLD MAN.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE.

AND MORE IS WHAT YOU'LL GET...

...WITH A LITTLE BIT OF THUNDER TO BOOT!

"AND SO ONCE AGAIN, MY DAUGHTERS, WE ARE FACED WITH A CHOICE..."

...ARE WE NATION, OR ARE WE SISTERS?

DO WE LEAVE AYO AND OUR CAPTAIN, ANEKA, TO--

COME TO DO YOUR VAUNTED "DUTY," HAVE YOU?

YES.

YES, I HAVE.

AN OATH TO MY NATION--SURELY A FOREIGN CONCEPT IN THIS LAND--COMPELS ME.

IT IS AS I HAVE SAID--WAKANDA CANNOT WAR AGAINST AZANIA WITHOUT DEFYING ITS OWN PROMISE OF REFORM.

BUT WAKANDA IS NOT WHAT IT WAS. THE IRON RULE OF *DAMISA-SARKI* HAS SLIPPED. REBELLION IS ALL AROUND HIM.

BEHOLD THE ERSTWHILE *DORA MILAJE*--HEEDLESS TO THE PANTHER'S LAW, INDEED A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES.

IT IS NOT HARD TO IMAGINE THESE ANARCHISTS, OF THEIR OWN VOLITION, WARRING AGAINST AZANIA ALONE.

WHO COULD BLAME THE COUNCIL IN SUCH A CASE?

WHO COULD TRULY FAULT THE PANTHER?

HOW?

WITH A PLAN...

...AND AN ARMY.

"I HAVE KNOWN T'CHALLA SINCE HE WAS A BOY. HE IS NOT LIKE US, M'BALI. HE SEES SO MUCH MORE.

"HE PLANS FOR EVERYTHING, AND THE EVERYTHING-SPINNING OF THOSE PLANS.

"HE IS NOT LIKE US, I TELL YOU.

"HOW, YOU ASK?"

BY THINKING TWO STEPS AHEAD OF HIS ENEMIES.

AND THREE STEPS AHEAD OF HIS FRIENDS.

AZANIA

OKAY, KLAW, IF WE'RE GOING TO BRING THIS REPLICA OF YOUR SISTER "TO LIFE," THIS IS GONNA BE OUR BEST SHOT.

YOU'LL USE THESE LAST BARS OF REVERBIUM TO AMP UP YOUR POWERS...

"...FAUSTUS AND ZENZI HAVE THAT WAKANDAN BIRD, AYO, WIRED IN TO THE NEURAL TRANSMITTER UPSTAIRS...

"...AND T'CHALLA'S DISTRACTED."

SO LET'S GET THIS DONE AND THEN GET BACK TO CARVING UP HIS COUNTRY.

MASTER SONIC FEED

MODEL NEURAL FE

SELF-GOVERNING SONIC PROTOTYPE

ENOUGH TALK, STANE.

DON'T WORRY. WITH ALL THE SONIC ENERGY YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNLEASH, I COULD TALK ALL DAY--

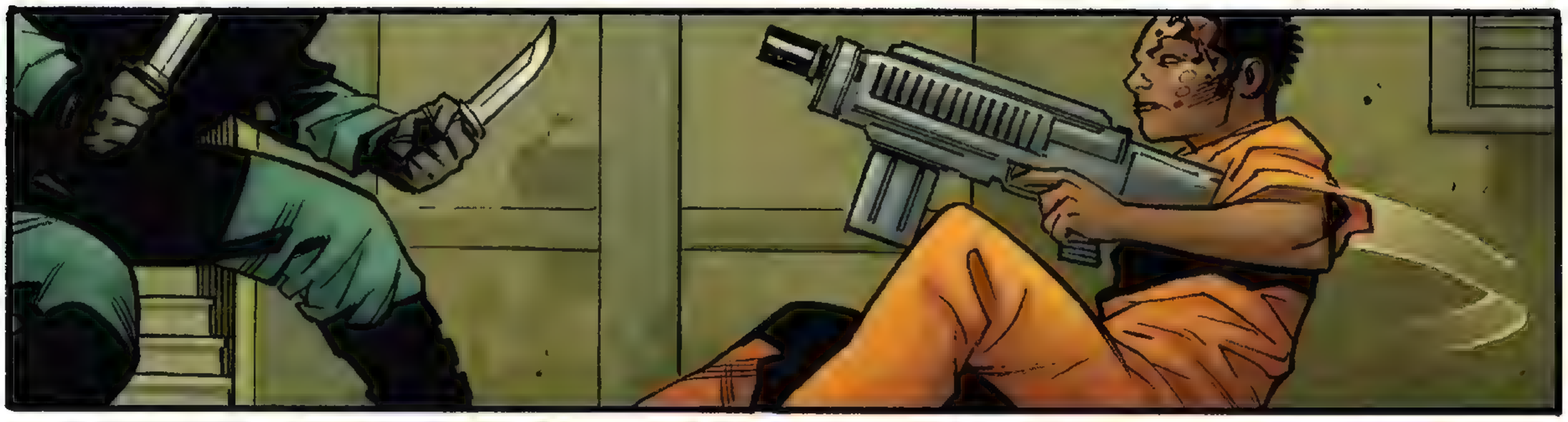
"--AND NO ONE WOULD HEAR A WORD."

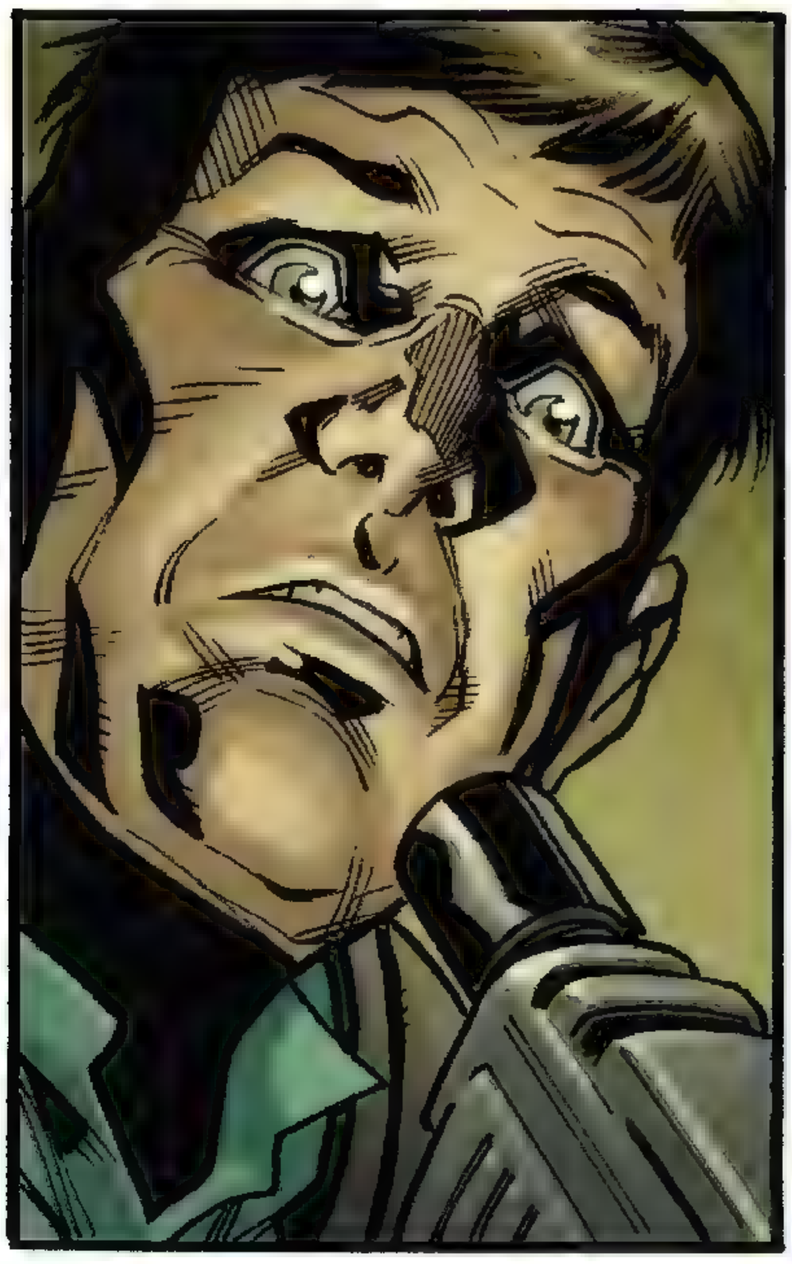
C'MON, BOYS, LET'S HURRY UP AND GET THIS ONE TO HER CELL.

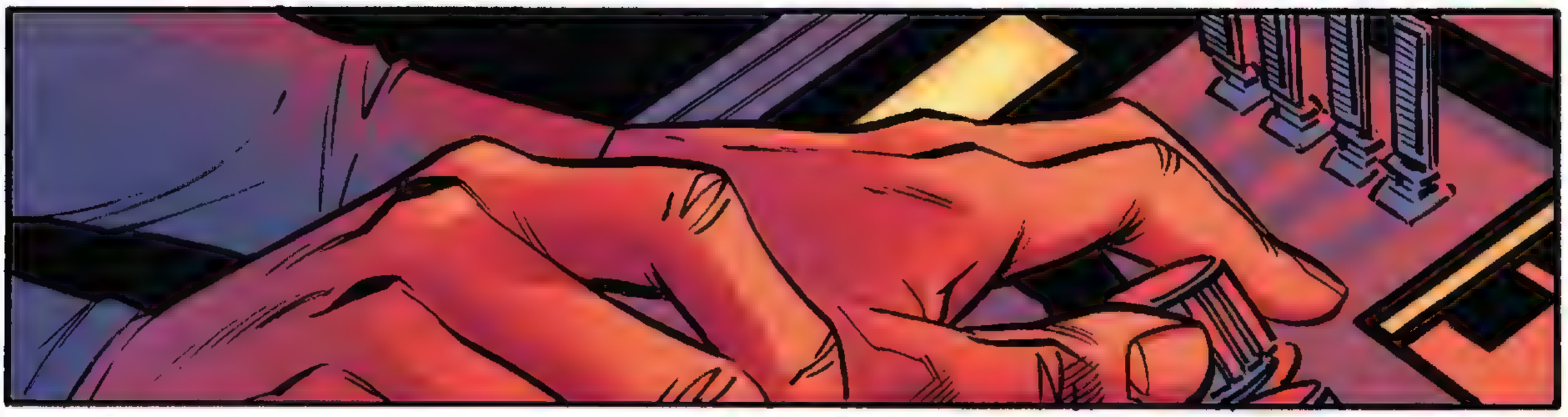
FAUSTUS TOOK HER GIRLFRIEND UPSTAIRS FOR "EXAMINATION."

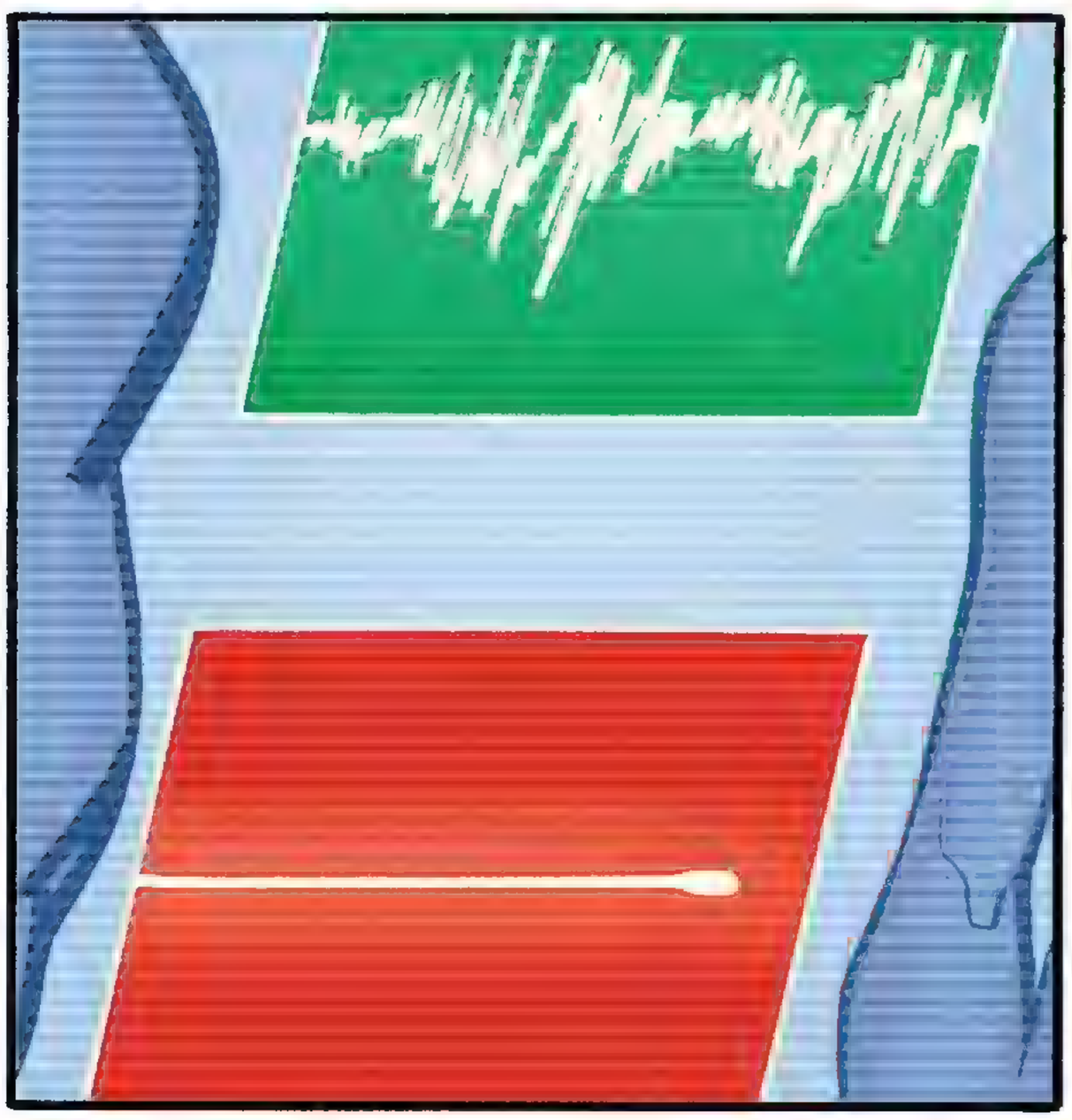
HEY, MAYBE WE'LL GET OUR OWN SHOT AT

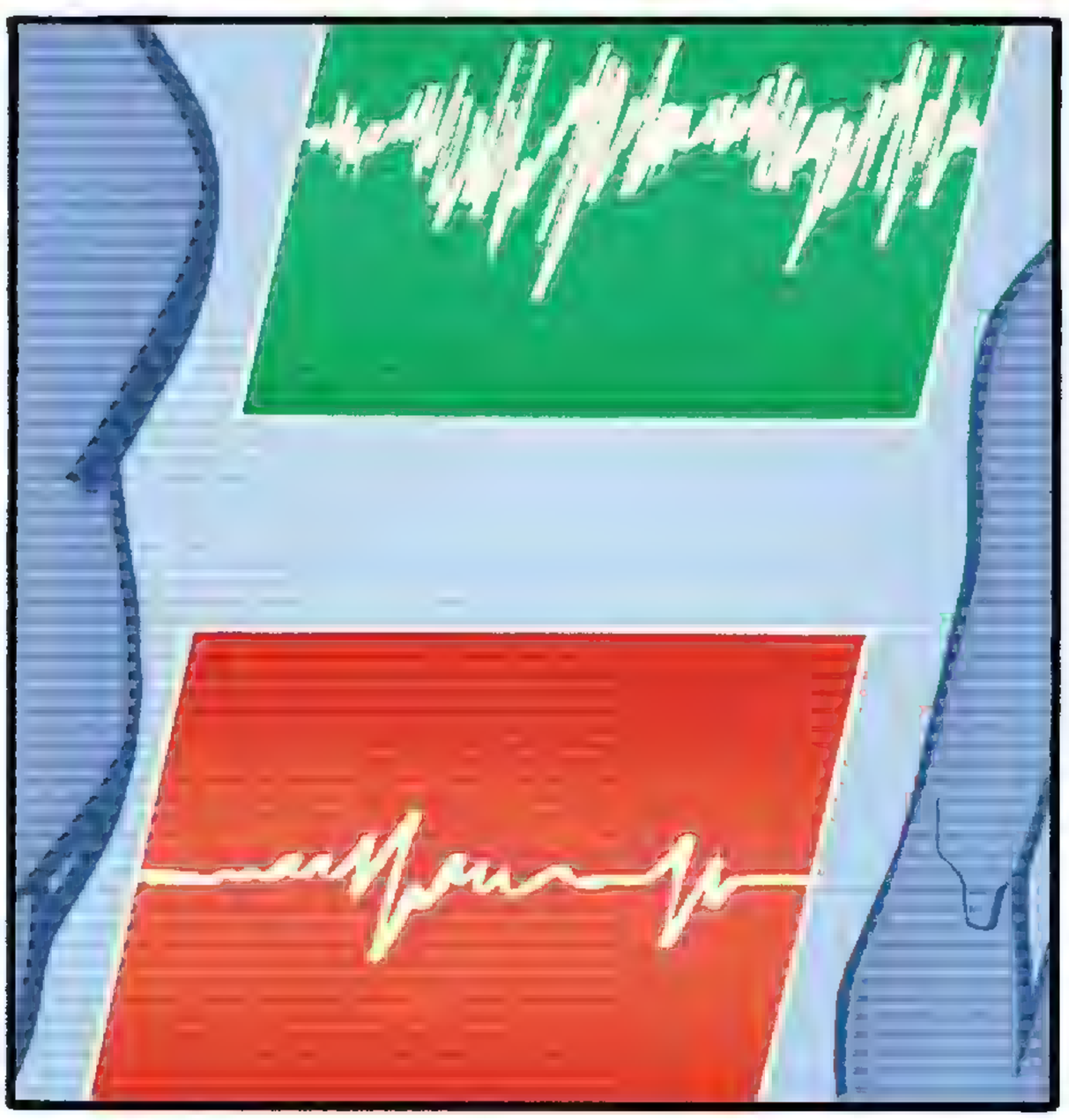
ALERT
!
INVASION COMMENCING--
ASSISTANCE REQUESTED
SITUATION CRITICAL
MASTER
SONIC FEED
SELF-GOVERNING SONIC PROTOT

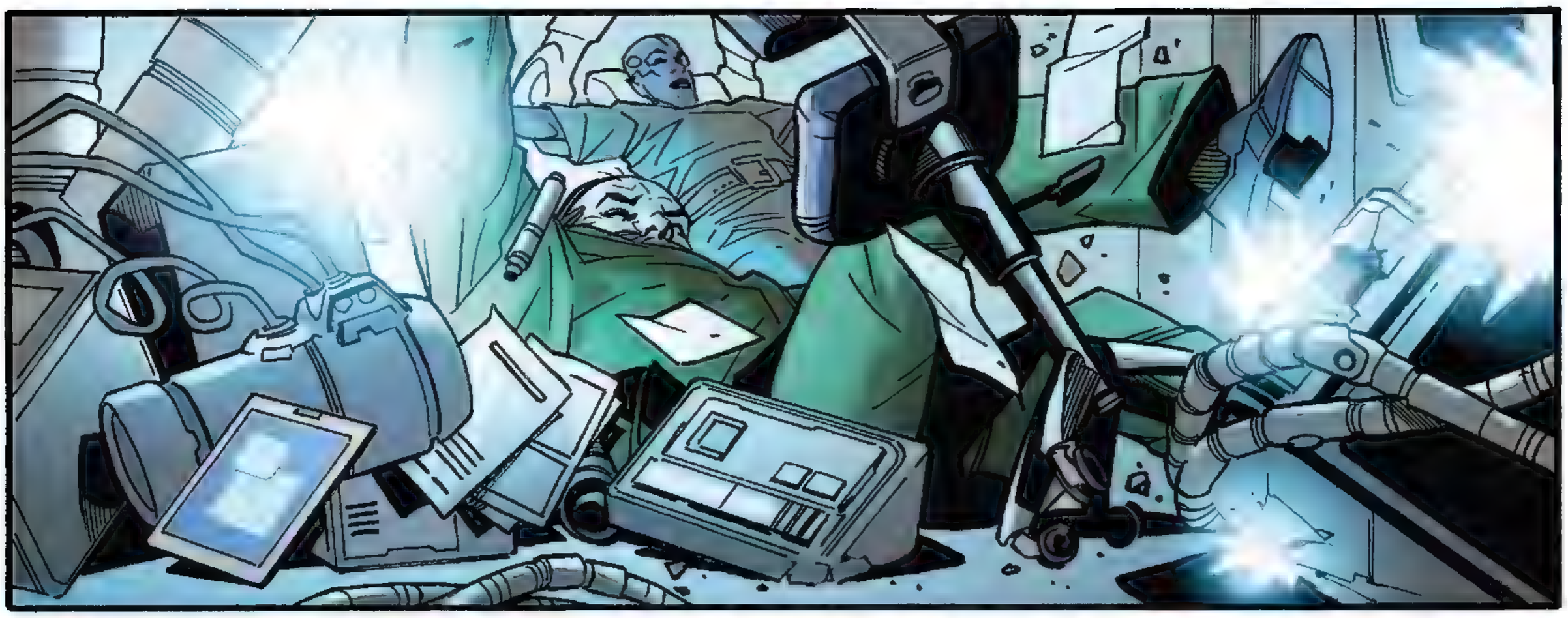


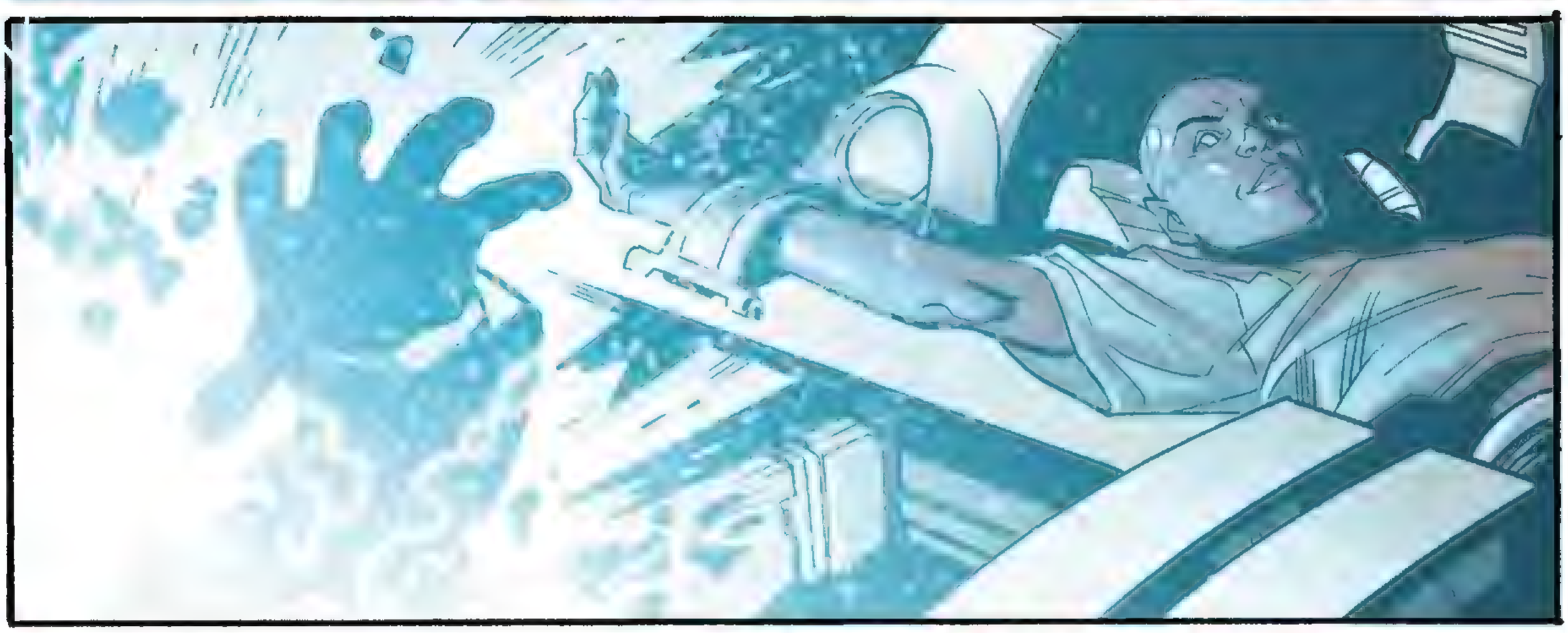


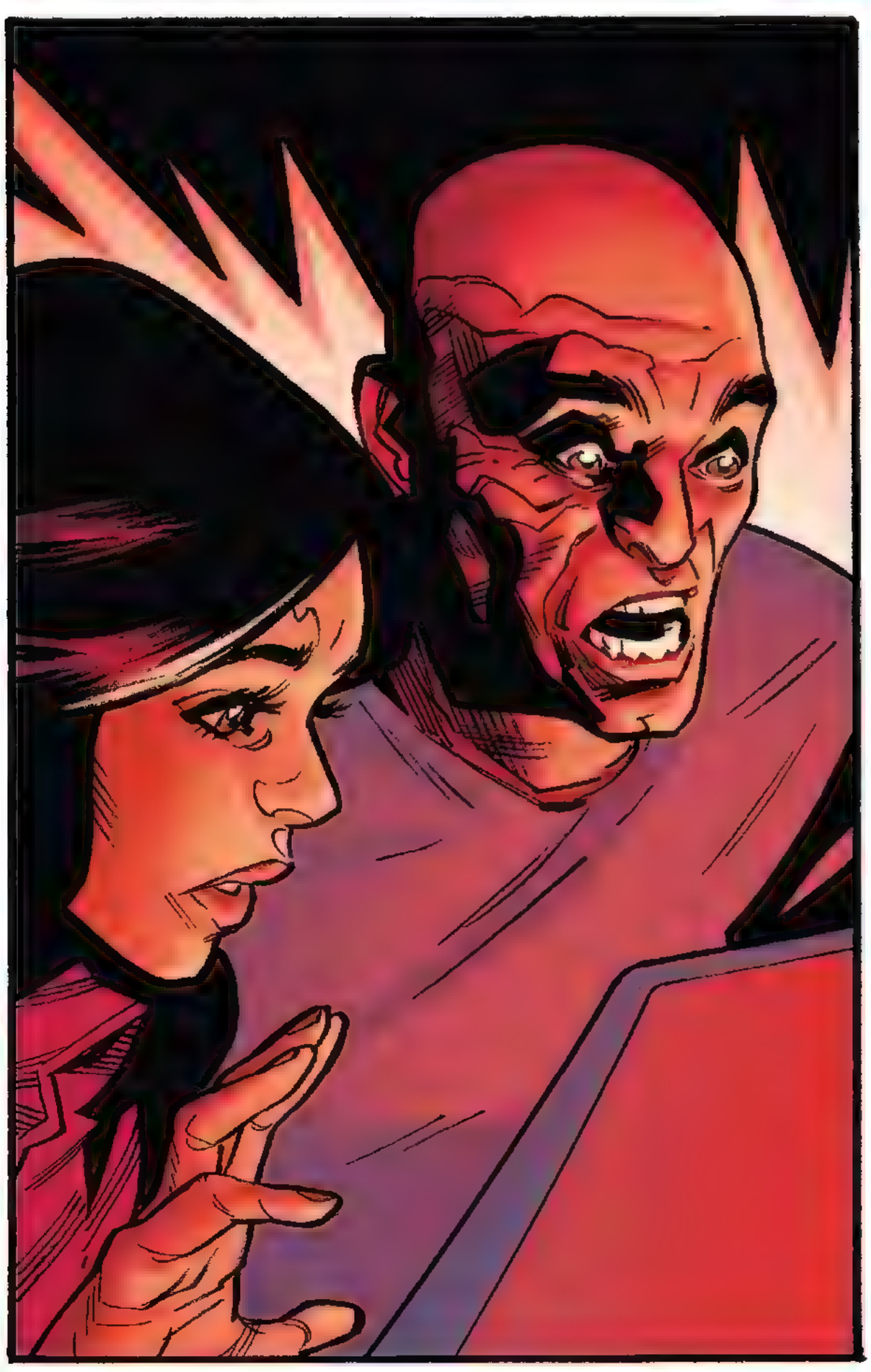


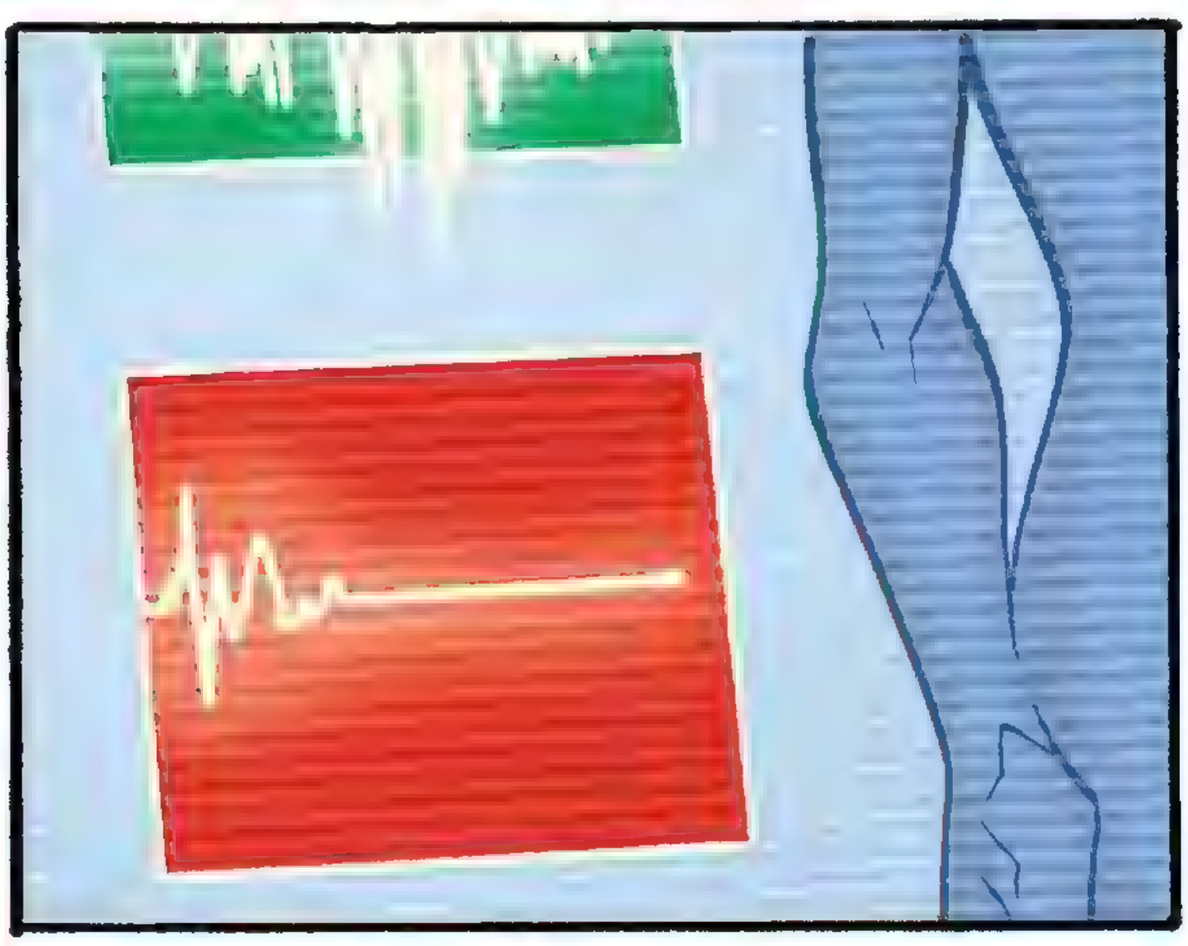












IN, BASE! COME IN, BASE!

WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS IMMEDIATELY! ARE YOU SEEING THIS VIDEO?

BOOM

"IT'S AN INVASION!"

THE MIDNIGHT ANGELS ARE EVERYWHERE!

noto

YOUR PROBLEM IS THE DUALITIES AND BINARIES.

THE UNSWERVING LINES. THE BOXES.

THE OBSESSION WITH FITTING A ROUND WORLD INTO A SQUARE WAKANDAN MIND.

IT IS NOT AFRICAN, I TELL YOU.

AFRICA IS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN--ROUND AND LUSH.

BUT WAKANDANS ARE TRAPPED IN THE BINARY.

SO STRICT.

SO WESTERN.

BOXES WHERE THERE SHOULD BE CIRCLES. STASIS...

...WHEN WHAT WE NEED IS *REVOLUTION.*

BIRNIN ZANA, TETU'S PRISON CELL

ALLOW ME TO CLARIFY.

YOU, THE WISE CHANGAMIRE, BELIEVE YOUR GODS TO BE LOST OR DEAD, TO HAVE SOMEHOW FORSAKEN YOU.

AND THIS REALLY IS THE PROBLEM--THE DUALITIES.

TWO THOUSAND SEASONS

LOST. FOUND.

LIFE. DEATH.

RISE. RUIN.

BUT WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO EXPAND *BEYOND* THE BINARIES?

TO CONSIDER, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE GODS ARE NOT DEAD...

...THAT THEY HAVE NOT FORSAKEN YOU...

"...THEY'VE MERELY GROWN *BORED* WITH YOU."

NYANZA

THE ORIGINATORS JUST KEEP COMING, T'CHALLA.

YES, DR. FRANKLIN.

AND SO DO WE.

I ADMIRE YOUR CAVALIER ATTITUDE IN THE FACE OF YOUR COUNTRY'S DESTRUCTION, T'CHALLA...

...BUT THE TRUE THREAT REMAINS...

"...RAS THE EXHORTER!"

THIS HUMBLE ONE THREATENS NO MAN.

REDUCED NOT THE LAKE TO GRAINS OF SAND.

RAISED NOT THE FRAMES OF THE FALLEN.

BROUGHT NOT THIS VENGEANCE UPON THE CONQUERORS.

FOR THIS HUMBLE ONE IS BUT A SUPPLICANT BEFORE THE MAJESTY OF THE *LOST-FOUND GOD.*

YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CLAIMS THE DIVINE.

THIS IS CORRECT.

AND SO LET THE HERETICS BE THE FIRST TO FALL.

AHHH!

ZAWAVARI!

BY THE FANGS OF BAST...

NO!

T'CHALLA, WE ARE WASTING TIME. NO WORD FROM MANIFOLD OR THE *DORAS*. AND WE'VE YET TO RECOVER THE GIRL, ASIRA.

WE NEED TO END THIS FAST. WE NEED A PATH.

WE *HAVE* A PATH, SISTER.

BUT IT DOES NOT RUN THROUGH ME.

OBSERVE WHAT DR. FRANKLIN AND HIS ***ENCHANTED WEAPONRY*** MAKE OF THESE APPARITIONS.

IS IT REALLY A MISTAKE THAT THIS EXHORTER TARGETED ZAWAVARI, OUR ***SORCERER?***

ONE MIGHT ALMOST SUSPECT SOME MANNER OF ***WEAKNESS*** TO BE EXPLOITED.

"OUR ENEMIES ARE LEGION.

"DR. FRANKLIN HAS ONLY ONE ENCHANTED BALL AND CHAIN."

AND I, BUT ONE ENCHANTED SPEAR.

BUT ZAWAVARI IS NOT THE ONLY MYSTIC IN OUR NUMBER.

NO, HE IS NOT.

DR. FRANKLIN, MY SISTER WISHES NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

NO PROBLEM.

THESE MEN WERE WARRIORS, ONCE.

BANDIT-KINGS WHO THRONED IN A TIME WHEN LAKE NYANZA WAS A DESERT, LIKE IT HAS BEEN REVERTED TO NOW.

"AND WHAT ARE THESE MEN NOW? BODIES DIVIDED FROM SPIRIT.

"GHOST SHIPS STRUCK FROM MOORING. FLOTSAM UPON A GREAT SEA OF SAND.

"SO MUCH RAGE. SO MUCH HATE."

BUT WHAT IS RAGE BUT AN OPEN WOUND, THE SHADOW OF PAIN?

AND WE GREET THEM WITH WEAPONRY...

"...WHEN WHAT IS NEEDED IS A HEALING.

"A *RESTORATION.*

"A LAYING ON OF HANDS."

UH, T'CHALLA? SHURI'S POSSESSION TRICK IS HELPING, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH...

Got 'em.

...PLEASE TELL ME YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING MORE THAN A TEXT MESSAGE UP YOUR SLEEVE!

CAN'T HOLD THEM...LINK... BREAKING...

OKAY. SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS. LET'S DO IT, THEN.

WHY SO DREARY, DR. FRANKLIN?

TO PARAPHRASE A GREAT BALLADEER...

LET US SEE THE FUTURE FIRST.

APOLOGIES, T'CHALLA. IT TOOK A MOMENT TO GATHER EVERYONE.

NONSENSE, EDEN...

"...YOUR TIMING IS IMPECCABLE."

FOOL. YOU THOUGHT TO BURY ME? EVEN IN THIS FORM, THE NYANZA IS STILL MY HOME.

AND BY THE HORN OF AZIZA, I'LL HAVE THAT CONJURER'S HEAD!

YET AGAIN THE DAMSEL MUST RESCUE HER CHAMPION.

MAY IT ALWAYS BE THUS.

SH-SHURI?

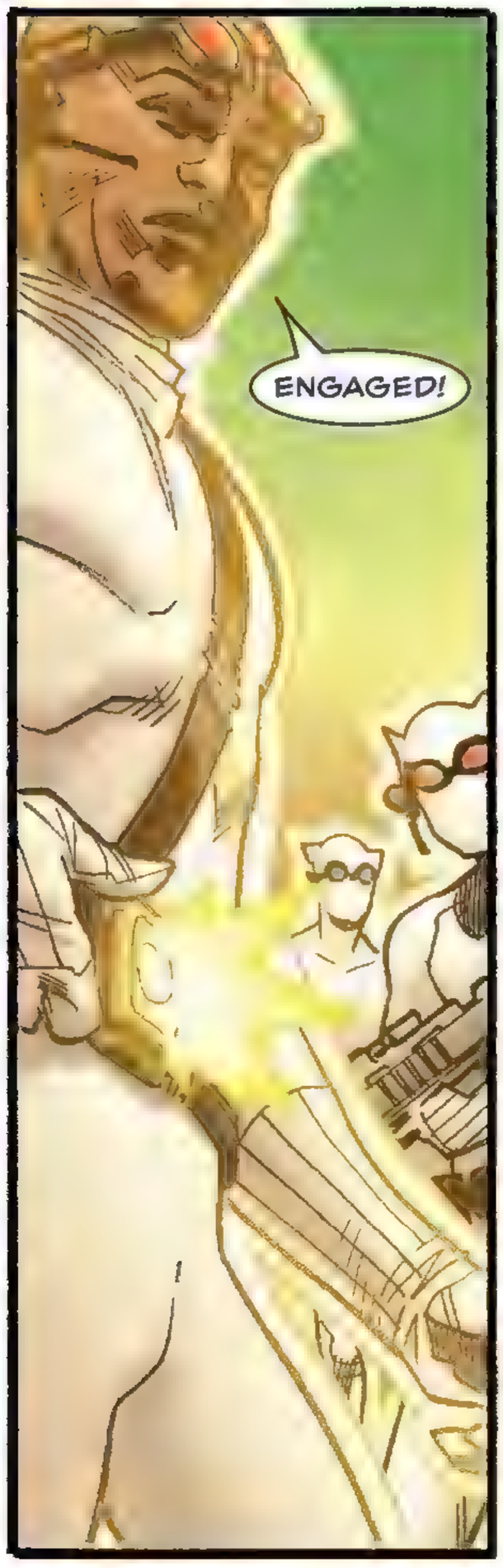
THE SAME, BELOVED.

TH...THERE WILL BE TIME... TO TELL THE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING.

BUT RIGHT NOW, ORORO, WHAT WE NEED...

...IS AN ENDING.

Elemental Protocols!


ENGAGED!

"YOU KNOW, THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THESE DISTURBANCES OF LATE ARE NOT THE WORK OF GODS AT ALL..."

...BUT OF *MEN.*

MEN WHO MIGHT WELL BE IN LEAGUE WITH *YOU.*

A TYPICALLY ARROGANT WAKANDAN DEFENSE.

YOUR GODS HAVE DEPARTED, SO THERE MUST BE NO GODS AT WORK AT ALL.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT GODS, TETU.

THE OUTLANDERS-- ZEKE STANE, TELFORD PORTER, THOSE HYDRA TWINS--

--YOU INVITED THEM IN.

DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT I AM TRYING TO HELP YOU?

BUT I CANNOT HELP YOU IF YOU TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY.

I DO NOT NEED "HELP," BABA.

AND I CANNOT CLAIM THAT WHICH I HAVE NOT DONE.

AND WHAT *HAVE* YOU DONE, MY SON?

I HAVE OPENED A DOOR.

"YOU THINK YOUR MYTHS ARE THE ONLY MYTHS.

"THAT YOUR POWER IS THE GREATEST OF ALL POWERS IN ALL OF THE MANY WORLDS.

"WAKANDA THE GREAT.

"WAKANDA THE UNCONQUERABLE."

WAKANDA THE INSUFFERABLE.

"YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEATEN ME-- BEATEN US."

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE ARE.

"AND YOU HAVE NO NOTION OF WHAT IS COMING.

"COME NOW, BABA...

"...YOU THINK YOUR WAKANDAN WISDOM CAN REALLY TELL YOU...

"..WHAT AWAITS BEYOND THE DOOR?"

ASIRA?!

UHHH... HELLO?

HELLO, ASIRA.

OKOYE?! WHAT IS THIS? WH- WHERE ARE WE?

IS IT NOT OBVIOUS?

"WE ARE DREAMING, BELOVED."

DARK ROOM LABS, BIRNIN ZANA

THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE ANY DREAM I'VE EVER HAD. WHY ARE YOU HERE?

FOR YOU, ASIRA. THERE WAS A SICKNESS ABOUT.

WE HAD TO *QUARANTINE*.

YES, YES. I KNOW.

PEOPLE WERE HURT.

MANY PEOPLE, ASIRA.

I KNOW. I KNOW.

YOU WISH TO HELP, THEN. TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT?

YES. MORE THAN ANYTHING.

THEN RELAX, BELOVED.

AND TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

AZANIA

YOU'LL HAVE TO GET KLAW ALONE FOR THIS TO WORK.

"A FEW KLICKS NORTH OF WHERE ANEKA AND THE REST OF THE MIDNIGHT ANGELS HAVE ENGAGED HIM AND THE AZANIAN ARMY, THERE'S AN OPEN FIELD."

IT SHOULD DO JUST FINE.

EXCELLENT, DR. FRANKLIN. YOU HAVE PROVEN INVALUABLE THESE PAST FEW WEEKS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT, AFTER THIS, THE UNDERSTANDING I SPOKE OF...

WELL, CONSIDER YOURSELF UNDERSTOOD.

AT LEAST "UNDERSTOOD" BY ME, DOCTOR.

THE RECKONING WITH *YOURSELF*, HOWEVER-- HOPEFULLY THAT CONTINUES.

THE STRUGGLE FOR YOUR NAME IS NEVER COMPLETE, DR. FRANKLIN...

"...THE STRUGGLE IS ETERNAL."

THE AZANIAN REBELS ARE WITH US, SISTERS!

TAKE THE SKIES, NOW!

CARRY THE FIGHT RIGHT--

SHAAA

SASHA, YOUR DETROIT STEEL ARMOR-- KILL HIM!

HANDS OFF MY MAN!

HANDS OFF MINE!

NOT BAD, EDEN. NOT BAD AT ALL.

JUST STAY ON TASK, KASPER, AND GET THAT ASSAULT PLATFORM DOWN.

OH, I PLAN TO DO A LOT MORE THAN THAT.

AND HEERREE WE GO...

HAHA! BEAT THAT, PORTAL BOY!!!

IT'S NOT A CONTEST, KASPER COLE...

BUT IF IT WERE...

UNH!

SO WHAT SHALL IT BE, T'CHALLA?

ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO COME GET YOUR BOY, OR DO I HAVE TO START SEVERING LIMBS?

DIE, JAMBAZI!

ZAKKK

ARRGGGHHHHH!!!

UNLIKELY, BABOON.

YOU HURT ME...

THAT IS GOOD.

BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

BELIEVE ME, MURDERER...

...YOU AND I ARE JUST GETTING STARTED.

ARRRGHH!!!

STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH, T'CHALLA.

YOU KNOW HOW THIS ENDS-- WITH ME ON TOP OF A GREAT MOUND, AND YOU UNDERNEATH ONE...

...RIGHT NEXT TO YOUR DEAR OLD *DAD*.

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, ULYSSES. YOU ALWAYS TALKED TOO MUCH.

KRSSH

BOOM

KRAKOA

ARE WE READY, DR. FRANKLIN?

STANDING BY.

CALLING FOR HELP, ARE YOU?

THUD

WHEN WILL YOU GET IT?

I AM THE VOICE ALL AROUND YOU.

YOU CAN'T KILL ME.

YOU CAN'T HOLD ME.

YOU CAN'T EVEN RUN FROM ME.

I MOVE AT THE SPEED OF *SOUND*, T'CHALLA.

BOW BEFORE ME. FOR REVERBIUM HAS MADE ME A *GOD*.

HELLLLOOOO...

REVERBIUM DISRUPTERS LOCKED IN

YOU ARE NO GOD, ULYSSES.

YOU ARE GARDENING.

SHATTERED

YOU THINK THIS...

THIS... THIS...

YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT REVERBIUM, ULYSSES.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED BEFORE YOU DEVOURED IT ALL. BUT YOU WERE TOO BUSY TALKING.

IT IS COUNTERFEIT, UNSTABLE.

J... JULIA...

JUST LIKE YOU.

YOU CAME BACK FOR US...

...FOR YOUR TREASONOUS *DORA MILAJE*...

...YOU CAME BACK...

HAIL WAKANDA!!! HAIL DAMISA-SARK!!!

HAIL WAKANDA!!! HAIL DAMISA-SARK!!!

"THAT CREEPY GIRL, ZENZI, SHE PULLED OUT EVERYTHING I'D TUCKED AWAY."

SHE KNEW WHAT BUTTONS TO PUSH.

I WAS MAD AT T'CHALLA, MAD AT WAKANDA.

AND THEN FAUSTUS TWISTED THOSE FEELINGS TO HIS OWN ENDS.

FOCUSED IT. GAVE IT VOICE.

MORE THAN VOICE.

"IT CAME *ALIVE*, OKOYE.

"FAUSTUS AND HIS MEN THOUGHT *SEFAKO* WAS JUST WAKANDAN MUMBO JUMBO."

BINARIES... DUALITIES...

"BUT THAT CREEPY GIRL...

"...SHE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD."

UNDERSTOOD WHAT, ASIRA?

THAT KLAW AND FAUSTUS WERE NEVER IN CONTROL. THAT I WAS NEVER THEIR TOY.

"I BELONGED TO *SEFAKO*. AND HE WAS *VERY REAL*."

NO...

MY GOD, OKOYE, YOU'VE GOT TO *WARN* T'CHALLA. THIS AIN'T A GAME!

NOT HIM...

I CALLED HIM SEFAKO.

BUT I REMEMBER NOW THAT HE HAD ANOTHER TITLE...

THE ADVERSARY!

"WE ARE STILL NOT EXACTLY SURE WHETHER OUR GODS ARE DEAD.

"BUT WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THIS:

"IT WAS OUR GODS, OUR *ORISHA* WHO BANISHED THE VANYAN, THE ANANSI, THE SIMBI.

"OUR ORISHA WHO LOCKED THESE *'ORIGINATORS'* AWAY.

"UNTIL *THE ADVERSARY* FREED THEM...

"...AND, SOMEHOW, IN DOING SO...

"...ALSO FREED HIMSELF."

IS THIS REALLY THE DEMON WHO PLAGUED WAKANDA, DESTROYED THE ORISHA, AND BROUGHT FORTH THE ORIGINATORS?

YEAAARRGGGGHH!!

I AM UNIMPRESSED.

T'CHALLA DID NOT TELL US IT WOULD BE THIS EASY!

N'KANO, THIS IS THE *ADVERSARY*. I HAVE FACED HIM BEFORE.*

*SEE THE X-MEN: FALL OF THE MUTANTS TPB! --WIL

NOTHING ABOUT THIS WILL BE *EASY.*

YES, TELL THEM, WIND-RIDER.

I WAS DEVOURING SOULS WHEN YOUR ORISHA WERE CRINGING IN HUTS!

ARRRRGGGH!!

OH, YOU THINK THOSE POWERS ARE YOURS?

UGH!

LET ME SHOW YOU, CHILDREN.

CRACK

YOU'RE JUST PIECES ON THE BOARD. TO BE DEPLOYED AT MY WILL.

NO!

DON'T CRY, DARLING. IF YOU KNEW WHAT I HAD PLANNED UP HERE...

WHAM

...YOU'D BE THANKING ME FOR PUTTING YOU *DOWN THERE.*

ZAWAVARI, GET THEM OUT!

WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

ALL ALONE, ARE WE?

I AM *WAKANDAN,* CUR. WHERE I GO, MY NATION FOLLOWS.

I ASSURE YOU...

"...I NEVER FIGHT ALONE."

I SHOULD BE IN RANGE MOMENTARILY, OKOYE. ARE WE PREPARED?

YES. THE GOLDEN CITY...

"...ALKAMA...

"...THE JABARI-LANDS..."

...THEY'RE ALL STANDING BY. BUT WE NEED ORORO FOR THIS TO WORK.

THE ADVERSARY HAS BURIED HER--AN EFFORT TO INDUCE HER CLAUSTROPHOBIA, NO DOUBT.

THEY'VE FOUGHT BEFORE. HE KNOWS SHE'S THE MAIN THREAT.

HOPEFULLY OUR PLANS ARE BETTER LAID THAN HIS.

AREN'T YOU SOMETHING-- A RAINBOW OF POWERS.

MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR *YOU*, DEMON.

"GOD," DARLING...

ZAAAAR

...YOU CAN ADDRESS ME AS "GOD."

HURRY, ASHA...*HNNNH*... I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD THIS...

SHE ISN'T RESPONDING, N'KANO.

I WAS TRYING TO SAVE ENERGY, BUT PERHAPS SOME LIGHT...

STORM, PLEASE...

WE NEED YOU. N'KANO ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH ALONE.

ALONE. MOTHER...DON'T LEAVE ME HERE... ALONE.

I AM NOT YOUR DARLING, DEMON.

AND I NEVER,

EVER

RUN.

CAN'T RUN FOREVER, DARLING.

"WITH THE ORISHA GONE, THE ADVERSARY SOUGHT TO STEP INTO THEIR PLACE.

"BUT TO DO THAT, HE FIRST HAD TO CONTEND WITH *SHURI*.

"SHE HAD HER *GRIOT POWER*--THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF WAKANDA--AT HER DISPOSAL.

"IT WAS NOT ENOUGH."

SHOULD HAVE RUN WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!

CAN'T... HOLD...MUCH LONGER.

GIVE IT UP. YOU AIN'T GONNA BEAT ME.

I TOLD YOU ONCE...

...I NEVER FIGHT ALONE.

ARRRGGGHHH!!!

SPRAAK

"WE KNEW THAT THE ADVERSARY WAS VULNERABLE TO IRON.

SHRAKKK

GHRAAAKK

"AND THUS FIGURED A PAYLOAD OF *VIBRANIUM-LACED SHELLS* MIGHT CAUSE HIM SOME DISTRESS.

"BUT WITHOUT *YOU...*"

ORORO, PLEASE...

HRAH!

CRACK

"I AM A KING, ORORO.

"A WARRIOR.

"BUT STILL A MAN.

"I COULD NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE DEMON.

"BUT I *COULD* DELAY HIM."

ZZZZZZRAKKKK

T'CHALLA, THAT CRAVEN COWARD ZAWAVARI RAN LIKE A DOG!

NO, SISTER--

--ZAWAVARI IS RIGHT WHERE WE NEED HIM.

COME, REMAINDERS. YOU SEE OUR ENEMY!

NO MORE GAMES, WAKANDANS.

THE TIME OF MY DOMINION IS NOW.

NOT NOW, DEMON.

NOT EVER.

"HOW DOES A MAN, A KING EVEN, DEFEAT A GOD?

"WITH A BIGGER GOD."

ORORO, I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME DOWN THERE.

THE ADVERSARY HAS IMPRISONED YOU. AND HE WILL IMPRISON US ALL IF YOU DO NOT STOP HIM.

ONLY YOU-- THE HADARI YAO, THE WALKER OF CLOUDS-- ARE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STOP HIM.

I AM THE KING OF WAKANDA. I AM THE NATION INCARNATE.

AND ON BEHALF OF THAT NATION, I SAY: LET THE FAITH OF ALL OF WAKANDA POWER YOU.

THAT FAITH IS MORE THAN ANY MUTATION. IT IS A GIFT OF GODHEAD, PASSED DOWN FROM YOUR ANCESTORS.

CLAIM THE GIFT.

LET THIS BE THE HOUR WHEN GODS AGAIN STALK THE LAND.

BOOM

THE HOUR OF THE STORM.

THUNDER!

KLOOG!

I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.

THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE...

"...WHEN I ASKED YOU IF YOU WERE A GOD...

"...I KNEW THE ANSWER."

OF COURSE YOU DID. YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE ANSWERS. EVEN WHEN YOU THINK YOU DON'T.

AND YOU KNEW MUCH MORE THAN THAT, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU KNEW WHAT WAS OPENING THE GATES. *AND* YOU KNEW WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO CLOSE THEM.

I...HAD A HUNCH.

DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, T'CHALLA...

...BUT YOU ARE, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE MOST MANIPULATIVE AND SCHEMING MAN I HAVE EVER MET.

I KNOW. I DO NOT DENY IT.

I HAVE... "*ISSUES*," AS THEY SAY.

WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?

I WAS NOT SURE. AND I AM KING.

A KING HAS TO BE SURE, ORORO. HE HAS TO *KNOW.*

NO. NOT WITH ME.

NOT HERE.

LET THE WORLD CALL US WHAT THEY MUST-- GODDESS, KING-- WHATEVER IT IS THEY NEED.

BUT BETWEEN YOU AND I, THERE CAN BE NO TITLES.

WE'VE DONE THAT BEFORE. AND IT RUINED US.

IF THERE ARE NO TITLES, WHAT ARE WE TO EACH OTHER?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, MY LOVE?

I AM FOREVER YOURS.

"AND YOU ARE ALL MINE."

THE END

DOWN WITH THE KING

Send your emails to **mheroes@marvel.com** and mark them "okay to print."

Hello, readers! Soon after they both attended the premiere of the BLACK PANTHER movie earlier this month, we got Ta-Nehisi Coates and Ryan Coogler, the director and co-writer of the movie, together to have a conversation about all things Panther!

TA-NEHISI COATES: Hey, what's up, boy?

RYAN COOGLER: Hey, what's happening, boss?

COATES: How you feeling, man?

COOGLER: I'm good, man.

MARVEL: Ryan, could you speak to how the Black Panther comics in general and Ta-Nehisi's run specifically informed the movie?

COOGLER: Yeah, I mean they informed it tremendously. When I got the gig, the first thing that I did was try to read as many of the runs as possible. I got access to the job really before word dropped of Ta-Nehisi and Brian Stelfreeze doing the comic, so where I was really digging in was some of the older stuff, and really getting into the Priest run and the Hickman [NEW AVENGERS] run.

And then I started to see what Ta-Nehisi was doing with the project, you know, he was posting things online [in the months before the release of BLACK PANTHER #1]. So I was seeing some of Brian Stelfreeze's early design work, and I was just really moved by it. I thought it was just so interesting. I was reading Ta-Nehisi a lot at the time, his non-fiction work, his essays, his book. I was really interested in what he and Brian were going to be doing. I love Brian's work that he had done before coming on to PANTHER.

I thought it was interesting that the chief creative forces for what was happening in the comic and how it was gonna look were these two African American men of stature in the industry. I thought that was really interesting, and I could tell that the character was being written and drawn with that kind of reverence, and there was an energy around it in the comic world.

MARVEL: And you guys started communicating soon after that, right?

COATES: Yeah, and It turns out that Ryan was a cat who not just was a tremendous filmmaker, but his heart and the generosity of his soul just came across in the conversation. It was something just to hear how Ryan's mind worked.

I told Ryan this before, but I haven't had the courage yet to watch *Fruitvale Station*. I know it's a great movie, but it's a topic that's hard for me. But I watched *Creed*, man, and when I thought about Ryan doing Panther, the level of sensitivity that Ryan brought and nuance to basic character--somebody was going to do that in Wakanda? Have all the action and everything, but also have that character? Man, I was so excited about that. And he fulfilled it, he really did.

MARVEL: Ta-Nehisi, in your comics, and Ryan, in your movie, the women of Wakanda play such a large role--why was that so important to you both?

COOGLER: That was some of my favorite stuff in Ta-Nehisi's run, with the Midnight Angels and how the *Dora [Milaje]* were represented. And I always wanted to make a film that really showed all aspects of black women. I got to do it a little bit in *Creed*, but with the characters that you have in the world of Black Panther--with the *Dora Milaje*, with the queen mother Ramonda, with Shuri, and with Nakia and Okoye--you can really get that opportunity.

I really wanted to try to have women who speak to the themes of the film, who personally had their own arcs in the film, and who really speak to the fact that a society--an African society or any society--doesn't function without women carrying tremendous weight. T'Challa is a great king, but he can't be that without the women in his life. So that was kind of my perspective.

But Ta-Nehisi's work with the *Dora* and the Midnight Angels and the agency he gave them in his book, it was really an incredible jumping-off point.

COATES: Like Ryan, I've always wanted to do something that allows you to explore the world of black women and explore some of the issues that come with that. When I came into the run with BLACK PANTHER, a lot of his supporting cast was actually dead, and it just so happened that a lot of the characters who were still alive were women.

And there had been that beautiful moment in Jonathan Hickman's run on NEW AVENGERS where T'Challa had to leave Shuri [NEW AVENGERS #24]. And one of the things that Ryan does beautifully in the film is that this is about a young king who's trying to learn how to wear the crown, and even though T'Challa is not a particularly young king in Hickman's run, a huge part of that is about that. I think Ryan's literally got a line in the movie where he says, "It's hard for a good man to be a king."

So when you had so many women in the cast, in terms of the ratio, and you had this case where my man had left his sister basically because he had to be king--it just felt like the natural place for tension. It felt natural to ask how would the *Dora Milaje* feel in this situation, how would his relationship be with his sister, how would he feel about that. So it really was the perfect opportunity to explore it.

And in terms of black women, some of the fight scenes in the film, like the ones with Okoye and Nakia, I just don't think you've seen two black women like that before! And there's not just fights, there's humor! It's not like they walk in and they're just badasses, there's humor between them! And there's that thing called the "Bechdel Test," how you can judge the complexity of the women characters--do they talk to each other about something else besides the men? There's all these instances between Nakia and Okoye where you get their own internal lives and their own internal motivations. So I appreciate Ryan saying that he saw some of that in the comic books, but he took it to another level. He really did.

MARVEL: Telling super hero stories was an unexpected move for both of you. You were both at a point where it seemed like you could go anywhere in terms of career direction. Can you talk about why you made your respective decisions and what the experience has been like?

COOGLER: I've always loved comic books. I think my love of comics goes back as far as my love of movies, possibly further back. And I loved

DOWN WITH THE KING

when they would make cartoons about the comic books, I loved it when they made movies about the books. Once I realized that I wanted to be filmmaker, I started to gravitate toward films that dealt with more realism and international cinema that dealt with almost like a documentary-style realism, so those were the types of films I started to make. But I always felt all this love for big event movies that were inspired by comic books. I loved *Iron Man*. I loved *Batman Begins* and the *Dark Knight*, these movies that Nolan was putting out.

And I still would go to Comic-Con, you know what I mean, and sit in Hall H and watch them present these big, huge movies. And that was always something I wanted to do one day. So for me, the passion was always there. I know Ta-Nehisi will want to speak to that.

COATES: Yeah, it's the same way. My love of comic books is at least as old as my love of novels. It was in comic books that I first saw certain big words, you know what I mean? Like that Chris Claremont was using. [laughter] So when I got asked, I mean, I was blown away.

MARVEL: Ta-Nehisi, your BLACK PANTHER #1 was the highest ordered comic of 2016, and Ryan, your movie is already setting preorder ticket sale records. Why do you guys think that these characters are connecting with people so much? Would they always have? And why now?

COOGLER: In the case of the film, I think that it always would have connected, I truly do. In Ta-Nehisi's case, I think that it's a little different. When he wrote *Between the World and Me*, when that book was released, he operated in a cultural space that was very unique. And for him to transition to comics at that time, after the release of *Between the World and Me*, and to do it with this specific comic book, which has a history of being almost like the exclusive comic book where you could address some of these issues of colonization and African heritage head-on--it was a zeitgeist thing, man. And Brian Stelfreeze, he's somebody who's so respected in the comic book world--the fact that he and Ta-Nehisi were teaming up, it was a historic thing at the time for comic books.

As far as the film goes, T'Challa is such an interesting character, and there's this dynamic where we've got audiences who have seen several different types of super hero movies at this point, it's become a thing that's commonplace. I think the audiences have kind of grown tired of seeing the same old thing, and the idea of a super hero movie where you can still see things blow up and explode but you get it with a different flavor, you get it with something that feels unique, that feels special, feels of a moment--that makes Black Panther feel very special in the audience's eyes. But I think that if it came out at any time, it would be a good time, it would be a special time, but right now--

COATES: Ryan, you don't think there was something going on, though? Like, to push it a little further, do you think there was something that was happening right now that allowed Marvel to even greenlight that movie? To even decide to make a Black Panther movie, like at this point?

COOGLER: I'm sorry, Ta-Nehisi, you saying, like, do I think that there's something going on in the culture?

COATES: Yeah, like, in the broader culture, or even in our culture. Like, do you think they would have greenlit it, I don't know, even like twenty years ago, ten years ago? I mean, it's a radical thing to say, "Yo, I'm gonna tell the story of this black super hero and I'm gonna do it in the country, I'm going to do it in Wakanda, and it's going to be basically all black people in the movie." You know what I mean? So for someone like Disney to be like, "Yeah, all right, we doing that," you think there's something going on there?

COOGLER: I think it was a combination of a lot of things. I think it's the company Disney being at a point of confidence, trying to take risks. I think it's Marvel Studios. But I do think it's the cultural space as well, with internet and social media, these forms of communication, seeing the impact that people of color have on the market. Look at the *Fast and Furious* franchise, right?

COATES: Right, right.

COOGLER: You look at it and you see how profitable it is when you have a film that has such broad inclusivity, and seeing how that film series just travels. You look at *Straight Outta Compton*, you see how financially successful that was. The business is there, and I think it makes companies realize, "Oh yeah, we might be able to do this." You won't find a company that's more confident right now and a company that's smarter right now than Disney.

COATES: So how do you feel now, after the premiere the other night? Is the weight still on your shoulders? Are you feeling like you did something? Are you happy yet? How you feeling?

COOGLER: At premieres, you got a room full of people who want the film to work, you know what I'm saying? Everybody here wants the film to work. They want to watch a good movie. They want to see something that is going to make them proud. It makes you incredibly nervous, man, and you don't know if the response is real or not. But I'll tell you now that that night, the Panther premiere, that experience... Man, that's one I'm going to remember for the rest of my life. I'm still trying to process it now.

COATES: You know what amazes me, man? How intellectually on-point your whole cast was. You know what I'm saying? This was not just a job for them. They were very, very keen and aware of what it meant politically for this movie to be out there. It was an impressive achievement, man, and they are an impressive bunch. I appreciate it a lot that my family and I can share in it. It was incredible, man. Truly incredible.

COOGLER: Aw, man, right on, right on. Right on, Ta-Nehisi, I appreciate you.

Our thanks to Ta-Nehisi and Ryan for making the time!

#166 VARIANT BY **RYAN SOOK**

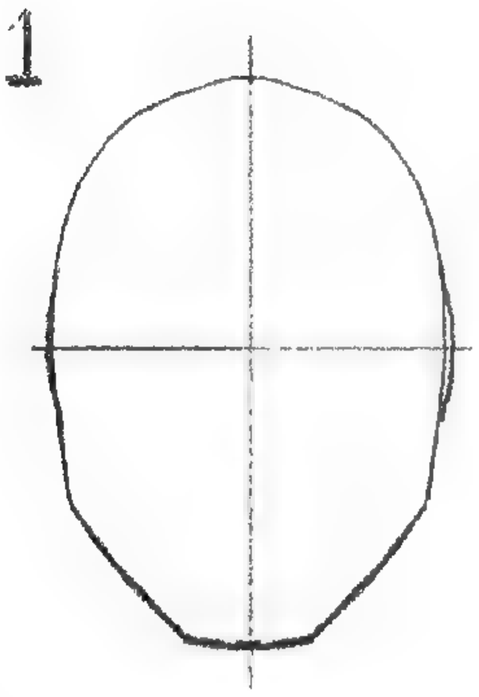
BLACK PANTHER

HOW TO DRAW BLACK PANTHER
IN SIX EASY STEPS!

BY CHIP "FAT CAT WHAT HATES MONDAYS" ZDARSKY

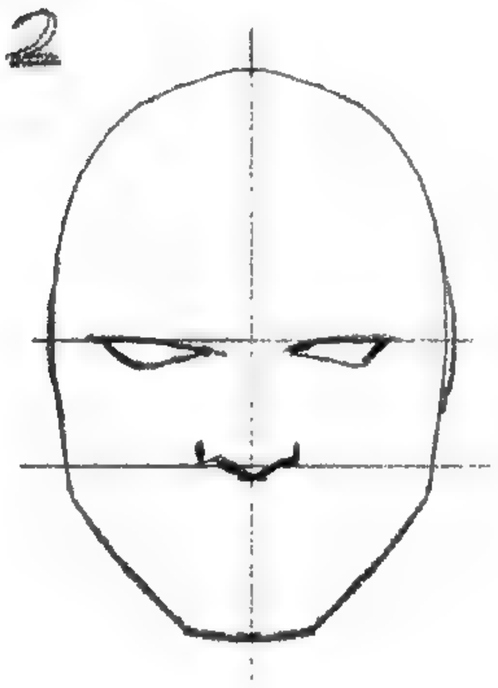
Wow! A "sketch variant cover"! You must be very excited! To prepare you to draw your very own SOMETIMES KING OF WAKANDA, here's a fun and informative step-by-step guide!

1



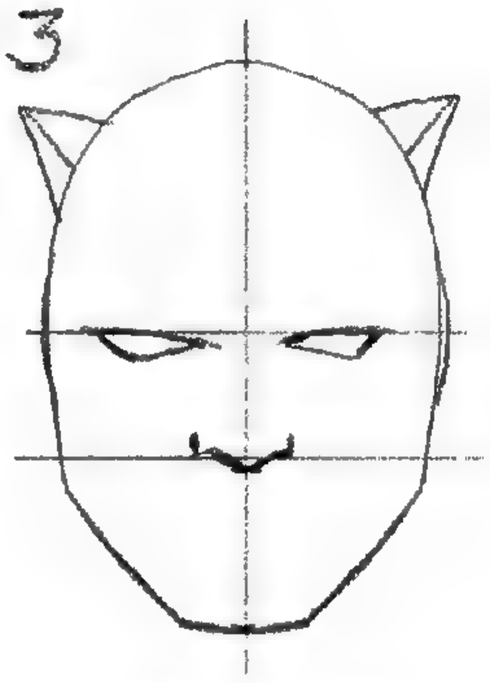
Black Panther has a strong jaw, so his head outline should be like an oval with some sharper edges defining the bottom half!

2



Don't be afraid to use lines to figure out the positions of his eyes and nose! Eyes are usually halfway down the face and noses a quarter of the way up the face!

3



As a billionaire super hero, pointy ears are a must. Have them protrude at a slight angle to retain their catlike quality!

4

Since his mask is mostly featureless, be sure to lightly highlight contours of his face!

5

Add more detail, deepening the shape of his head through the mask!

6

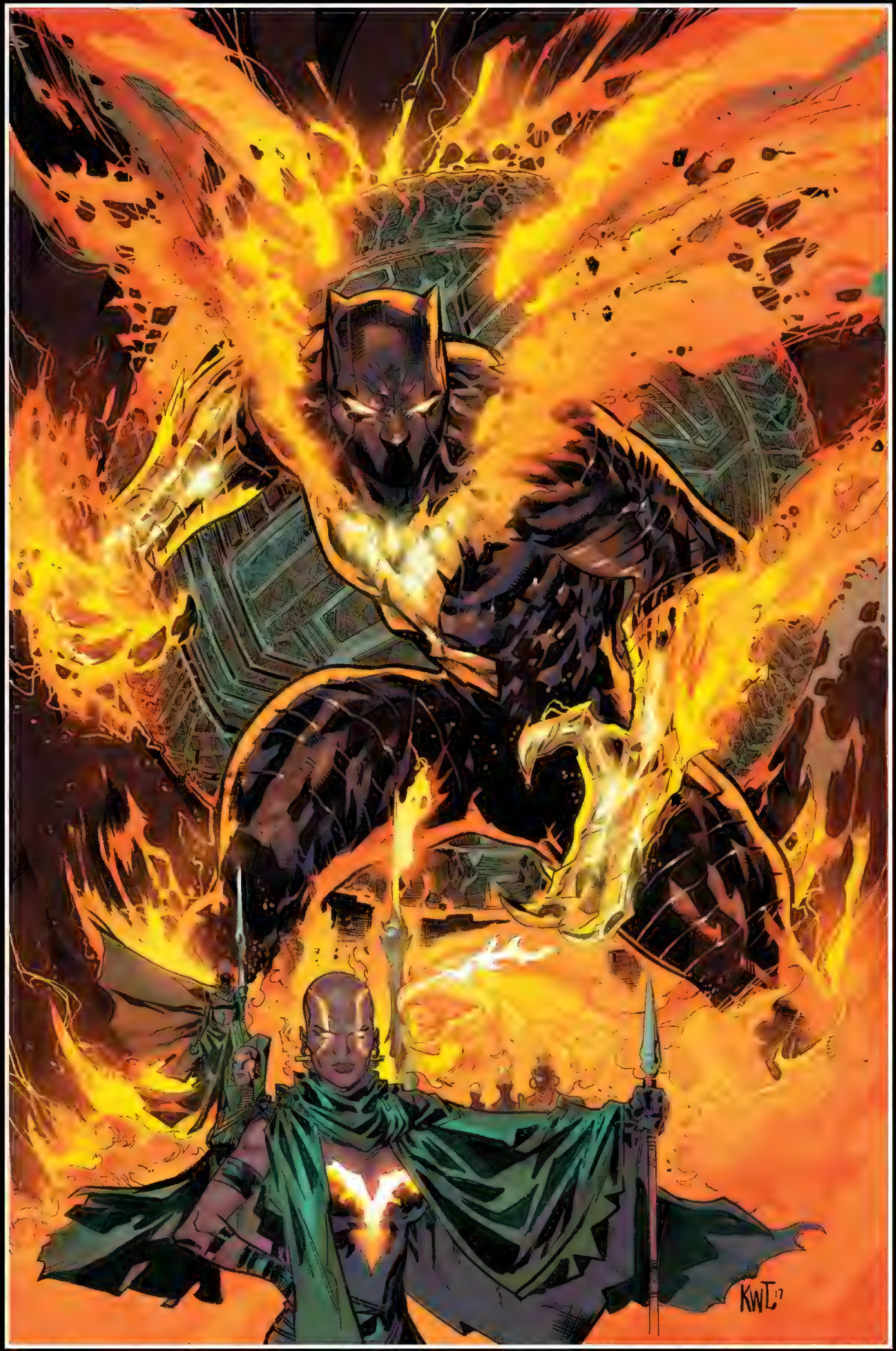
Fill it all in black!

#166 HOW TO DRAW VARIANT BY **CHIP ZDARSKY**

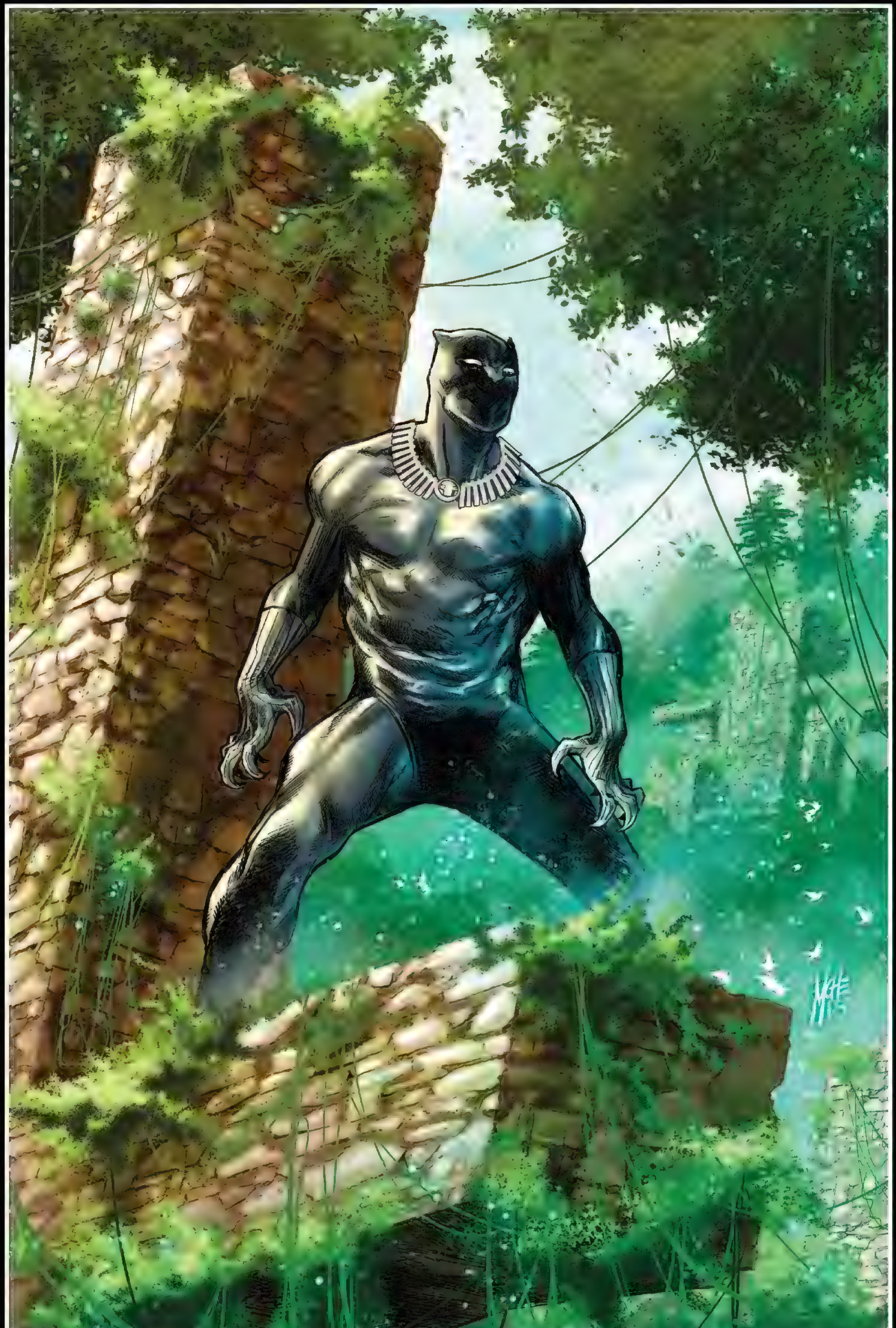
#166-167 COMBINED VARIANTS BY **JENNY FRISON**

#166 LEGACY HEADSHOT VARIANT BY
MIKE McKONE & **RACHELLE ROSENBERG**

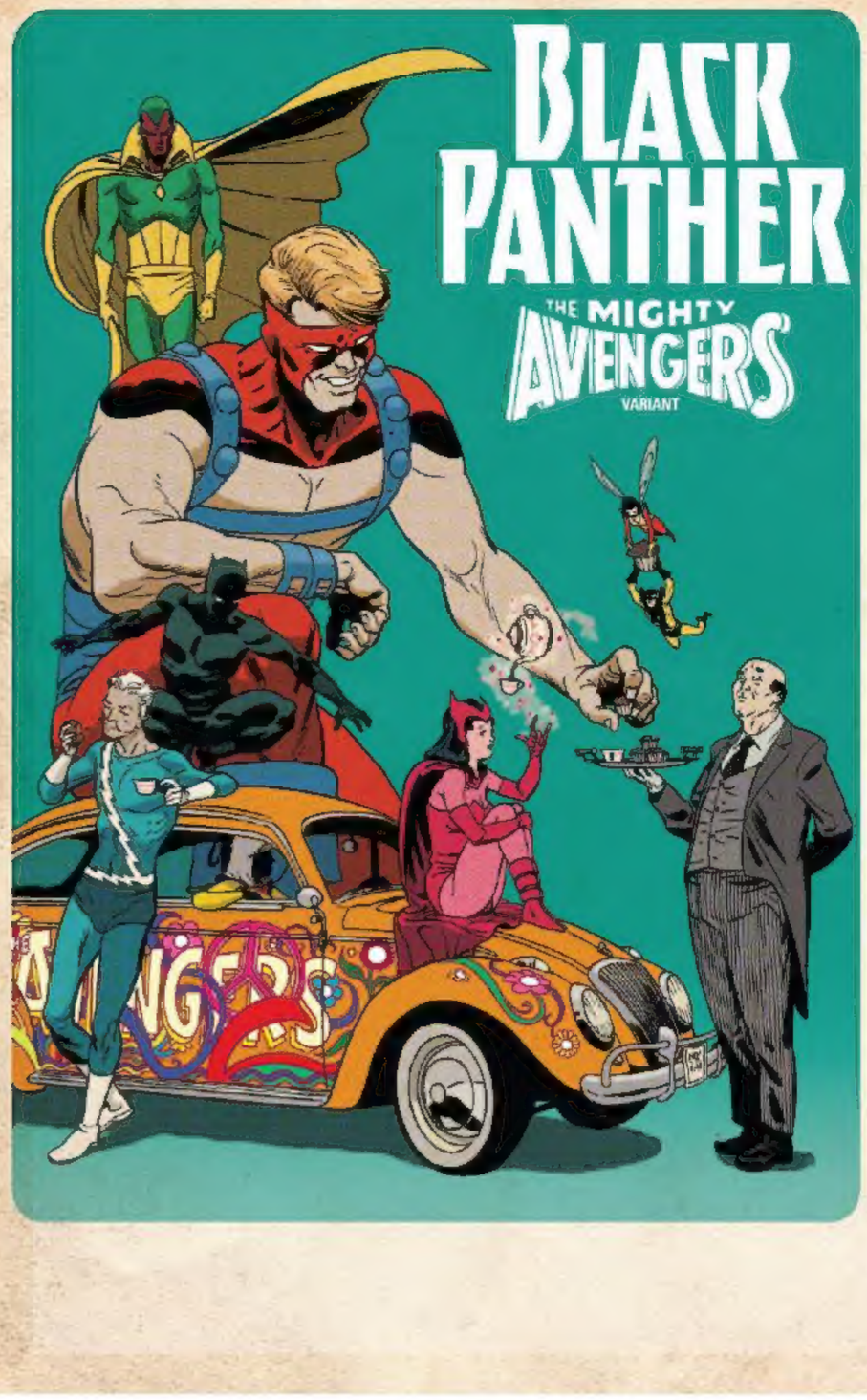
#166 HOMAGE VARIANT
BY **WES CRAIG** & **TAMRA BONVILLAIN**



#168 PHOENIX VARIANT BY **KEN LASHLEY** & **MATT MILLA**

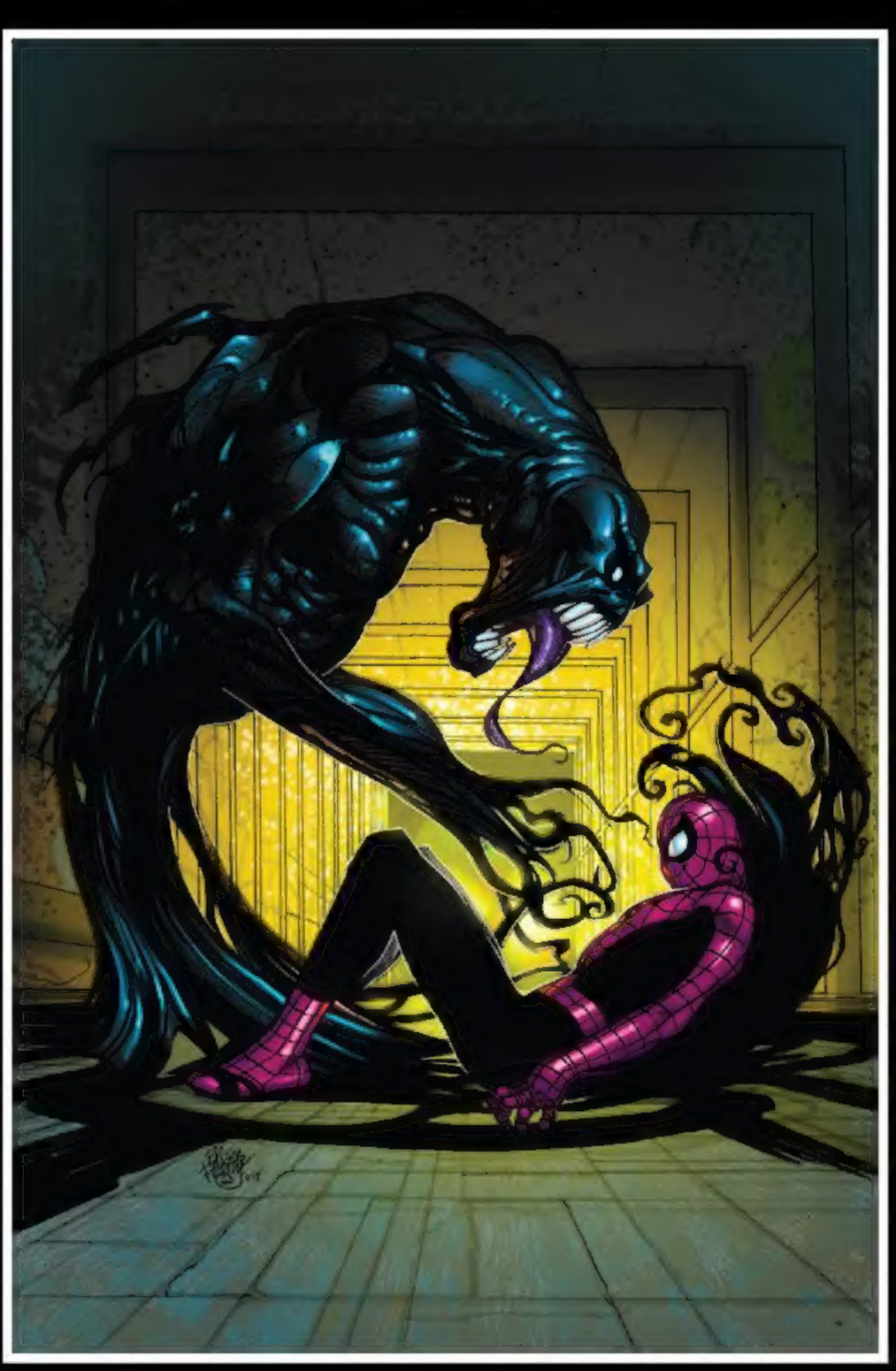


#170 YOUNG GUNS VARIANT BY **MARCO CHECCHETTO**



#169 AVENGERS VARIANT
BY **MARCOS MARTIN**

#170 MOVIE VARIANT



#172 VENOM VARIANT BY
PASQUAL FERRY & **CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**

KLAW STANDS SUPREME!

THE BLACK PANTHER's greatest foe has returned, ready for war! Can T'Challa finally defeat Ulysses Klaw, the man who killed his father, before his country rips itself apart? To make matters worse, Wakanda's gods have disappeared – and now the Originators have returned! The former gods are back, but what are their intentions for a land that has forgotten them? And all that is only the beginning as a cadre of villains returns, monsters pour through strange gateways and Wakanda is brought to its knees! T'Challa must defend his country from within – but with his hands full, who will come to Ayo and Aneka's aid? Who will join the Panther's ill-fated crusade? And who, or what, is Ras the Exhorter? The answers will shock you!

"Bottom Line: You'll be hard pressed to [find] better layered, nuanced afrofuturism in mainstream comics than the sprawling epic Coates has laid out here."

– Black Nerd Problems

COLLECTING ***BLACK PANTHER (2016) #166-172*** – BY TA-NEHISI COATES, LEONARD KIRK, CHRIS SPROUSE, MARC DEERING, KARL STORY, LAURA MARTIN AND MATT MILLA.

v05 - Avengers of the New World Part 2 Black Panther https://www.comixology.com/Black-Panther/digital-comic/654466 Collects Black Panther (2016) #166-172. Klaw stands supreme! The Black Panther's greatest foe has returned, ready for war! Can T'Challa finally defeat Ulysses Klaw, the man who killed his father, before his country rips itself apart? To make matters worse, Wakanda's gods disappear — and the Originators return! The former gods are back, but what are their intentions for a land that has forgotten them? And all that is only the beginning as a cadre of villains returns, monsters pour through strange gateways and Wakanda is brought to its knees! T'Challa must defend his country from within — but with his hands full, who will come to Ayo and Aneka's aid? Who will join the Panther's ill-fated crusade? And who, or what, is Ras the Exhorter? The answers will surprise you! Scraped metadata from Comixology [CMXDB654466], [RELDATE:2018-05-30] Marvel Superhero 160 en

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